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THE
N U N;

OR, THE
ADVENTURES

OF THE

Marchioness of BEAUVILLE.





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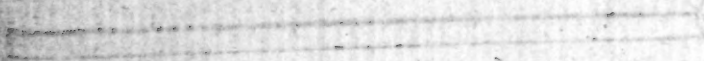
UNIVERSITY

OF THE

ADVANCE



Memories of Beauclerk



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THE
ADVENTURES
OF THE
Marchioness of BEAUVILLE.

I WAS born in the city of Paris in the year 1701. My father was counsellor to Louis the 14th, he was remarkable for his great wisdom and integrity, which were joined to an affability of temper, very rare to be met with. This subjected him to the disagreeable necessity of being continually thwarted by my mother, whose exalted opinion of her own good sense, was often the source of
B great

great uneasiness in the family. She was descended of the ancient house of Armagnac, remarkable for their noble achievements in war. She ever was extolling the prowess of her ancestors, and would often reproach my father that his progenitors had never done any thing to render their names famous to posterity. I was the youngest of two daughters, and my sister having attained her seventeenth year, was given in marriage to Count Clairville, a young gentleman of immense fortune. I shall only observe that they lived very happily together; and as their life contained only common incidents, I shall confine my self to the relation of my own adventures.

In France where the romish religion is the worship of the country, it is customary to send the youngest children into a convent for education, and when they arrive at a pro-

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proper age, they are often prevailed on to take the veil, which the retired life they have so long led, and the over persuasions of the nuns, easily induce them to. This was my case : at seven years old I was placed in a monastery of dominican nuns, where I remained for about eight years, when I followed the example of a young lady, who had also been brought up in the same religious community, and we were both admitted probationers at one time.

This step though it proved fatal to me afterwards, was highly pleasing to my parents, who were enabled the better to support their splendor, which they could not so easily have done, had I married, as my eldest sister's portion, which was considerable, had sunk their estate very low, and my mother's pride would never have suffered her to consent to my marrying below the rank of nobility.

After the year of my probation was passed, I was admitted to make what they call, the SOLEMN PROFESSION, together with the young lady, who was my companion in the noviciate. In consequence of this the church was decorated, and the archbishop of Paris, who was intimately acquainted with my father, at his desire, preached a sermon suitable to the occasion. The ceremony was pathetic, and drew tears from all the congregation who were greatly affected at seeing *two beautiful girls*, going thus to be sacrificed to the caprice of custom, and mistaken prudence. When all was over, I and my companion retired to our cells, as did also the rest of the nuns.

I lived pretty contented for about a year, and sometimes had the pleasure of my relations company. But alas! the kind of life I was engaged in,

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in, was not so much my own choice, as the effect of a too easy compliance with the repeated solicitations of all the community, to embrace a religious state, which had so great an influence over my tender mind, that I could not refuse.

One morning being at church with the other sisters, I observed a young gentleman who eyed me with the greatest attention. I felt something within me, to which I had hitherto been a stranger. My heart beat with unusual throbs, and I found great difficulty in endeavouring to hide my confusion from the other nuns. I was not, however, so great an adept in the art of secrecy, as to conceal what passed in my mind from the importunate curiosity of the lady abbess, who followed me to my cell, and insisted on being acquainted with the cause of my indisposition; for she imagined that I was

sick. I resolved not to undeceive her, and therefore begged I might be permitted to remain alone, as retirement was the best cure for my indisposition. She acquiesced with my desire, and immediately left me. I now began to reflect on my situation : I was young, handsome, had been educated suitable to the rank my parents held in the world, and though I was a nun, yet having taken the veil too young to be able to form any solid judgment of my own inclinations, as to the choice of a state of life, I now perceived, I had bid farewell to the world too precipitately. I felt a flame burning in my breast, which I soon discovered to be that of love ; and now my invention was on the rack to find out some way to see the dear object of my flame, for I was told he came to our convent every day to hear mass. In vain did reason and religion interpose, remonstrating on the im-

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impropriety of such a step, how incompatible it was with the situation of one, who by the institution she had embraced, was debarred from all future intercourse with the world. I was deaf to all these arguments, and blinded by passion, I ran headlong to my own ruin.

Though I ardently longed to know the young gentleman's sentiments concerning me, yet I was desirous that he should be the first to break the ice. But how could either of us communicate our thoughts to the other in our present situation. I dare not trust any one with the true cause of my distress, and my supposed illness deprived me of the pleasure of going to the grate of the choir, * which looked into the church, and

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whi-

* In popish countries, the choir of the churches belonging to the nunneries is placed out of sight behind the altar, and there is a grate before it, which looks into the church.

whither, before my confinement to my cell, I used to accompany the other nuns. I was wont sometimes to steal to the choir, when there was nobody there, and under pretence of performing my devotions, I used to kneel at the grate for a considerable time, impatiently waiting his coming into the church. After many disappointments he came one day, and there being no body in the church, he approached the altar behind which I was kneeling, and under pretence of examining the pictures and ornaments thereof, came close to the grate, and slipped a letter into my hand, which I (perceiving his intent) held out to receive; then with the utmost precipitation, hastened out of the church, leaving me highly pleased at what had passed.

I hastened to my cell, and being entered, I locked the door, and
opened

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opened the letter, which contained
the following words.

“ Divine Charmer,”

“ To be depriv'd of what we most
“ tenderly love is not to live ; 'tis
“ death, and the most cruel of all
“ deaths. Words cannot express the
“ anguish of my soul, tortured be-
“ tween hope and fear : my eternal
“ happiness or misery, depends alone
“ on your smiles or frowns. Oh !
“ be not cruel then, but vouchsafe
“ kindly to smile upon me : urge
“ not the difficulties which might
“ impede the completion of my fel-
“ city. Love knows no obstacles
“ which it does not easily surmount.
“ Say then my dearest angel, “ *live*
“ *and be happy.*” Thus, and thus a-
“ lone, will you preserve a wretch-
“ ed being from instant death.”

“ *Marriner.*”

The contents of this letter filled me with joy ; they soothed my vanity, which was highly pleased at being thus flattered, I resolved however not to be too easily won, the better to prove the sincerity of his professions of love. Accordingly I omitted going to the choir as usual for some days. At length I appeared there, and found him standing near the altar. He was in an ecstasy at seeing me, and eagerly ran to the grate. I appeared to be offended, and abruptly left him. The next day I went to the choir, and saw him in the church ; but the repulse he had received from me, had struck him with so much awe, that he durst not approach the place where I was. He cast his eyes towards me with a desponding look, which seemed to speak the torments of his mind. I could not disguise any longer, and therefore beckoned to him to approach : this
he

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he did with the greatest transport of joy, and told me, that my kindness had saved his life. He painted his passion for me in such moving terms that I could no longer resist, and I ventured so far as to tell him that nothing could hinder my corresponding in a proper manner with his love, but my present state. Overjoyed at this frank confession of my love for him, he told me, that provided I would continue kind to him, he would engage to effect my escape from the prison (as he term'd it) where I was now confined, and that then we might be united without fear of any future separation.

I who had still some remains of devotion left, shuddered at the thought of leaving the convent. It appeared to me the wickedest thing imaginable, and therefore though I loved him, yet I firmly resolved never to return to the world. How unequal

equal are our tempers formed? What pains do we take to gratify our appetites in things which are forbidden by the laws of God and man! Not the most sacred ties can bind us when we set our minds on what is not within our reach: We easily break through all rules and orders: Reason loses it's sway, and we become a prey to the lawless flame which burns within us. But to proceed in the narrative of my adventures.

It will not be amiss in this place to give a short account of Monsieur Marrinet. He was a son to an eminent banker in Paris, and a most accomplished young gentleman. His father had been dead about three months, and left him an immense fortune. From the first time I saw him, I loved, and my passion daily increased. I was tortured with continual anguish; sleep became a stranger

ger

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ger to my eyes, and the uneasiness I suffered in my mind, was visible by the alteration which appeared in my countenance. It was observed by the other nuns; and the lady abbess, who was a woman of great experience, suspected the true cause. She thereupon undertook to administer a cure, but all in vain: The partiality I had for Marrinet was so deeply rooted in my heart, that I could not lend an ear to her just remonstrances. Our father confessor, a learned and pious dominican, was indefatigable in his exhortations, which though they made some impression on me, yet they soon wore off.

No more to see a train of noble youths follow with dying eyes my steps, and watch incessantly my every motion; to be excluded from all the pleasures of a suitable conversation, and confined to cold re-
serve

serve and eternal austerity; instead of my morning wakings saluted with amorous billets and praises of my beauty, the first stroke of the melancholy bell which calls to matins, and the other accosted by a grave abbess or wrinkled confessor. To exchange the glittering ornaments which formerly set off my charms for dismal black, and my downy bed for a coarse mattrafs, and rough hempen sheets; all these were terrible considerations for a person of my gaiety, and taste for amusement. I was too artless to conceal my grief: the lady abbess saw it with inexpressible concern, and endeavoured to moderate it, but in vain.

She represented to me the ease and happiness of a monastic life, which I now enjoy; how free I was from all the cares and perplexities, as well as dangers of the world. I could not be prevailed on to listen to
any

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any of the reasons they alledged ; and though I offered nothing in opposition to what she said, yet it was easy for her to perceive, I was very little affected with it.

The whole sisterhood joined with the abbess, and by consolatory discourses and advice, endeavoured (but without any success) to bring me to a state of greater resignation. The lady abbess to mitigate the severity of my confinement, offered me the liberty of the grate for the whole day, a favour allowed to the rest but sparingly, and that too at particular seasons. But all these condescensions were unavailing ; the little liberties permitted me, served but to make the want of those which were forbidden, more terrible to be borne.

In fine, finding nothing in such a state agreeable to my inclinations,

and my whole thoughts being fixed on attempting an escape, the less I saw a possibility of it the more my grief increased, 'till I was at length thrown into a state very little different from absolute lunacy.

† The good abbess perceiving her remonstrances had no effect, desired father Colbert my confessor, to interpose his authority towards restoring my mind to that tranquility which was necessary for one in my state. She requested him to spare neither time nor arguments to effect it; and he promised to omit nothing which might be conducive to it.

He had indeed a design in his head which caused him to be more assiduous than she imagined. He had been for some years confessor to my lover Monsieur Marrinet, and as among those of the romish persuasion, it is looked on as a crime, almost

almost as bad as sacrilege, to conceal the least desires which tend to sin, from the knowledge of their confessors. Marrinet had acknowledged the most ardent passion for me; and the pretended holy man, promising himself a vast deal of advantage, by soothing the vices of his wealthy charge, absolved him at the expence of a small penance and a large purse; and finding that he still continued to have the same inclinations, affected to pity his misfortune, and at last told him, he should think it less a crime to assist him in obtaining his desires, than to suffer him to be thus tormented. "If
" you could once enjoy this sweet
" girl," (said the old hypocrite)
" your mind would doubtless be at
" peace, and there might be some
" hopes of your returning to virtue,
" which it is impossible you should
" do, so long as you carry about
" you such unquenched fires."

The

The young inamorato was ready to fall at his feet to thank him for so unexpected an indulgence; but the other would not suffer him: "Make me," said he, "these re-
" tributions when I have made you
" happy, depend upon it I will do
" it if I can, but you must not be
" impatient."

Marrinet forced him to accept of a purse of louis-d'or's as a testimony of his gratitude, and assured him, that, if by his means his passion was gratified, there was nothing in his power he would omit to serve him.

He might indeed have spared that protestation; father Colbert was before fully convinced of his liberality, or he would not have made an offer of serving him in an affair, which, if discovered, might be of the most fatal consequence to himself.

He

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He did not however immediately go about the performance of his promise; the extraordinary discontent which I had shewed for a long time, had made him half afraid that Marrinet had a rival, for whose sake I was so uneasy at being excluded from the world, and if that conjecture was real, he doubted it would avail little to speak to me in favour of another. He therefore resolved to be satisfied in this point, before he declared himself; and the charge the abbess had laid on him, now giving him an opportunity, by long conversation, to penetrate my most secret thoughts, he made use of it in the following manner.

“ I am afraid,” said he to me,
“ that having joined with the rest in
“ endeavouring to persuade you to
“ continue with pleasure, in that life
“ which you are by your vows ob-
“ liged to follow, has made you look

“ on me as your enemy, and taken
“ from you great part of that re-
“ gard which is due to my function.
“ Your confessions to me are refer-
“ ved and limited ; and much I
“ fear, there is some more powerful
“ motive than what you outwardly
“ profess, which makes you so un-
“ happy in your situation. Say my
“ fair daughter, are you not in love?
“ Have not the charms of some be-
“ witching youth rivalled heaven in
“ your esteem, and chained your
“ inclinations down to the things of
“ this world ?” No I assure you, fa-
“ ther said I, “ my heart is yet entirely
“ free ; nor have I in my confessions
“ to you concealed any thing that
“ passes in my mind.”

“ I can never indeed endure this
“ life ; there is something methinks
“ so cruel in renouncing all the
“ pleasures which others of my age
“ and complexion are indulged in,
“ that

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“ that I look on the power which
“ inflicts it on me as tyrannical, and
“ it deprives me of all that tender-
“ ness I ought to feel for those who
“ gave me being.”

“ Have you then,” again demand-
ed the priest, “ among so many ad-
“ mirers, as your youth and beauty
“ must have attracted, not one,
“ whom you favour more than the
“ rest ? have you looked with eyes
“ of indifference on all ?” “ yes I
“ protest,” said I, “ on all mankind,
“ till my entrance here ; and I can-
“ not deny but that since that time,
“ I have been entertained at the
“ grate by a gentleman, with whom
“ I could be pleased to have nearer
“ conversation.”

The monk who was between hope
and despair, at these words, hastily
entreated to know his name. “ The
“ Marrinet,” said I, “ and if you
“ have ever seen him you will be

“knowledge, he is well worthy of
“my regard.”

“The fears of this reverend inter-
cessor were now converted into a
transport of joy, which he was una-
ble to moderate. “Then you are
“the happiest of your sex,” cried
he, “and I think myself the most
“fortunate of all men, in being able
“to bless the love of such a faithfull
“pair. Marrinet adores you with
“such a fervency of fond affection,
“that he lives but in the promise I
“have made of bringing him to a
“nearer view of your charms, than
“what that grate affords.” It is im-
possible to describe the joy which I
felt at this discovery; but by the vio-
lence of my former discontent, one
may judge of the pleasure I con-
ceived at the approaching happiness.

I was too innocent to imagine
there was any other effect of love
than

than marriage, and doubted not, since I was told he had an affection for me but that he would make me his wife ; yet willing to hear the pleasing confirmation, “ But will he “ take me from the monastery ?” cryed I, “ and make me his wife ?” “ He will do every thing,” returned the confessor, “ that thou canst wish, “ my lovely daughter, as in a day “ or two, at the farthest, thou shalt “ be freely convinced.”

We had some further discourse on the same subject, after which he took his leave, and went to acquaint Marrinet with what he had done.

Those who have known what it is to love, will easily guess the joy he felt at finding himself so much approved by the mistress of his affections. He embraced father Colbert with all the ardency of the sincerest friendship and gratitude, and was

almost wild with the ungovernable transport, when he told him, that in a very short time he should have as full possession of the lovely maid, as his most impatient wishes could desire. Nor did he promise more than he intended to perform, and had already contrived the means of accomplishing. He provided an habit, cowl and beads, such as are used by monks of the dominican order, and performed the office of valet-de-chambre, in equipping the young lover in such a manner, as he might not be suspected for any other than what he seemed.

-Colbert then wrote a letter to the abbess, which there was no room to imagine, would not be a sufficient passport for his entrance into the monastery; the contents were as follow.

“ To

To the pious Anna Maria, Abbess
of the Nunnery of Dominican
Nuns.

“ Holy Sister,

“ Being through frequent fastings,
“ and an over zeal in performing
“ the duties of our sacred function,
“ seized with a bodily infirmity,
“ which prevents me executing my
“ office, I intreat you will accept
“ in my room the good priest who
“ brings you this, for whose beha-
“ viour I will answer, knowing him
“ to be capable of the great charge
“ he undertakes, and a person, who
“ for his great wisdom, learning
“ and piety, is justly esteemed and
“ revered by all who know him.”

“ I am,

“ Good sister, yours,
“ Colbert.”

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The

The amorous Marrinet received these credentials with a joy adequate to the happiness he expected to be possessed of by their means ; and every thing being ready for his expedition, he departed for the monastery, where being immediately introduced to the venerable matron, he presented the letter to her. She expressed great concern for the indisposition of father Colbert, but it was soon succeeded by the pleasure she took in having one so worthy of officiating in his room. She asked him several questions concerning the duties of his function, which the old priest had so well instructed him to answer, that she doubted not that he was worthy the character the other had given, and immediately conducted him to the gallery where the cells of the devotees were ranged in order, one over against each other.

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He made what haste he could, either to absolve or inflict penance (according as their confessions seemed to require) on those nuns who were in his way to the cell of his charmer, and the little austerity which his impatience to be in another place, would permit him to counterfeit, was extremely obliging to those, whose exclusion from the world had not been able to preserve from wishes no ways agreeable to their vow.

At last he arrived, where I, full of expectation of hearing something of what had been the subject of my last conversation with father Colbert, impatiently waited his arrival.

Nothing could equal the vexation of the disappointment when I saw a stranger in his stead, unless it was the rapture I was in, when I found that he was no other than Maccine.

He did not suffer me long to remain in ignorance, for throwing off his cowl, and catching me in his arms, with all the ardency of a youthful passion, "behold," cryed he, "adorable angel, the force of love, and your almighty charms! see of how little effect are walls of stone, or bars, or bolts to keep the happy lover from his wish! These words, and the full sight of his well known face discovered him to be Marrinet, and the sudden joy which so unexpected a blessing kindled in every faculty of my soul, deprived virgin bashfulness of the power of resisting the impetuosity of this forward lover.

I returned his careffes with an equal warmth, nor did I once offer to repel the boldness which thus encouraged, he already began to assume; till pressing closer and eager to possess all I was capable of bestowing,

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bestowing, "fye Marrinet," I cry'd,
"forbear, proceed no farther, 'till
"marriage sanctifies your wishes:"
"unkindly urged," replied he,
"damp not the bliss which love
"and beauty yield by such unsea-
"sonable remonstrances! turn all
"thy thoughts on present extasies,
"and give a loose to love!" the
wild impatience and hurry of desire
which he was that moment in, pre-
vented him from uttering more, as
the emotions of my soul did me
from replying, or making even the
least resistance to the pleasing ruin.

Locked in close embraces, I yiel-
ded to the unspeakable joy! both
quite absorbed in rapture, we bid
farewell to reflection, and each sense
was for a time lost in a wild variety
of pleasure. But thought and rea-
son by degrees returning, the amo-
rous youth regarded the conquest he
C 3 had

had made with pride and pleasure;
and I looked on what I had done,
with love, fear and shame.

A thousand times I conjured him
to repair my loss of honour by making
me his wife, which he as often
swore to perform, as soon as father
Colbert could invent some plausible
excuse for coming along with him;
“that good man,” said he, “by
“whose assistance I have enjoyed
“this earnest of my happiness, will
“doubtless find the way to make
“it lasting; but we must have pa-
“tience, ’till some kind opportu-
“nity arrives.”

How easy is it to deceive the in-
nocent, and with what readiness do
we credit what we wish? I doubted
not the sincerity of Marrinet, and
now looking on him as my future
husband, suffered him to repeat the
late

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late experienced joy, nor knew one thought but rapture, 'till his safety reminding him, that too long a stay might occasion suspicion, he was obliged to take his leave.

I knew the necessity, and durst not urge the continuance of my happiness, lest it should prove fatal to the dear author of it: I therefore suffered him to depart, endeavouring to console myself as much as possible, with the assurance he gave me of a speedy return.

I was not deceived in my hopes: his passion yet unsatiated made him oblige father Colbert to continue his pretended indisposition, and for some weeks he officiated in his stead, and indulged the delights of criminal desire to the extremest height.

The ardour of his passion was not of long duration : the once vigorous flame of Marrinet began by degrees to abate ; and to add to that inconstancy which is inseparable from a general lover. I myself contributed to make his visits less agreeable, by expressing a jealousy, that he was less diligent in contriving the means to become my husband, than he had been to obtain those freedoms which ought to have been the consequence of marriage.

His indifference for me increased in proportion to my discontent, and he was just on the point of concluding that there was nothing farther worthy of incurring the dangers to which he was daily exposed, by wearing a habit which he had no right to, when an adventure presented itself, which made him recede from that opinion, and resolved not yet to drop the mask.

In

the Marchioness of BEAUVILLE. 33

In the next cell to mine was lodged a young nun, whom compulsion, not choice, had made so. Nobody could be possessed of more amorous inclinations; and having, before her entrance into the monastery experienced the joys of love, she was wholly free from all those fears, which are the guardians of virgin chastity. In fine, she wanted nothing but the opportunity to yield every thing a passionate lover could ask, and having been excluded from those pleasures on her taking the veil, she looked on it as the greatest of all misfortunes.

She had nothing to expect or wish from the age of her former confessor, but hoped a different sort of entertainment from this young one than prayers and dull harangues on the blessings of retirement, and the virtues of temperance and continency.

His discourse however being always on these themes, she began to imagine that his looks belied his heart, and that he was of the coldest constitution imaginable. But she was soon undeceived by some words she heard me in an unguarded rapture utter, when he was alone with me in my cell; such as, my lovely charmer, &c. &c. These expressions she well knew were not occasioned by devotion to any other power, than that of love.

She was sensible I was in possession of a happiness she had long languished for in vain, and both envied and hated me for it. Her resentment did not however carry her so far, as to betray to the abbess the discovery she had made; she chose to be revenged another way, if possible, and if she failed in that, to have recourse at last to the most cruel one to us both.

Having

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Having determined in what manner she should attempt the execution of her designs, the next time the lovely friar came, she accosted him in these terms. "Father," said she, "I must intreat you to be less expeditious in this visit, than in your former ones to me. You know very well, it is the duty of your function to do your utmost endeavours towards comforting the afflicted, and strengthening the weak; now having something which has lain heavy on my spirits for a considerable time, I am in the greatest need of your assistance." I hope you do not labour under any trouble of mind for a sin yet unabsolved," replied he, with a well counterfeited austerity, "for sins concealed become every hour less worthy of forgiveness." "Alas! father," replied she, "it is not for any crime I have been

"guilty

“ guilty of that I am grieved ; it is
“ in my wishes alone, that I am to
“ blame : I conjure you therefore
“ by your order, and by that cha-
“ rity which ought to be insepara-
“ ble from the priesthood, that you
“ will have patience to hear what
“ my blushes and confusion scarce
“ permit me to disclose, with that
“ readiness and freedom, as I do
“ my other faults.”

She accompanied these words with a look so sweetly languishing, that it added greatly to her natural charms: though Marrinet wholly taken up with the thoughts of me, had not before remarked them.

But being at a loss to account for her behaviour, he regarded her with a fixed attention, and after a little pause, “ I am too sensible,” answered he, “ what is expected
from

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“ from the charge I have underta-
“ ken, to neglect any thing in my
“ power that can give you ease or
“ satisfaction.”

“ But,” continued he, placing
himself in the confessional chair,
“ you must with the most unreser-
“ ved freedom, relate the whole of
“ what disturbs you.” “ I will con-
“ ceal from you no part,” said she;
“ know then, that I am troubled
“ with desires, which are entirely
“ the reverse of the vow I have ta-
“ ken at the holy altar. There is a
“ warmth within me, which ill a-
“ grees with the cold rules of a mo-
“ nastic life. In fine, I burn, I
“ languish, I dye for that, which in
“ the most solemn manner I have
“ entirely renounced.” “ To be
“ possessed of such desires,” answer-
ed he, still retaining his former se-
renity of air, “ and have the power

“ of

“ of vanquishing them, is the supreme triumph that virtue can acquire, and that I hope is yours.”
“ Oh! quite the contrary,” interrupted she, “ all the efforts I can make to restrain my passion are fruitless: still, still I wish, still I am guilty in idea.” “ The frailties of human nature,” resumed he, “ cannot always be subdued; but sure you have not yielded so far to their suggestions as to commit in fact, what seems to promise so exquisite a pleasure?”

“ Not yet,” replied she with a sigh, “ but I cannot be certain how long I shall be able to resist my own wishes, if opportunity and returned affection tempt.” “ Are you not then beloved?” demanded he, “ not that I know of,” returned the fair nun; “ but if my kinder stars should, in compassion

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the Marchioness of BEAUVILLE. 39

“ sion of the agonies I suffer, make
“ the dear youth to glow with the
“ same ardour, instruct me holy
“ father, by what precepts strengthened,
“ I should have courage to
“ resist.”

“ The task would be perhaps too
“ hard,” resumed he, “ were you
“ in the world ; but as you are here
“ secluded from so dangerous a
“ trial, the question is needless.”
“ Alas !” answered she, “ how much
“ are you mistaken ! these rugged
“ walls are no interruption to me ;
“ the charmer of my soul, has free
“ admittance here : he is a friar, the
“ loveliest who ever graced the or-
“ der : all the graces that fancy can
“ invent, dwell in his form ; his
“ language is harmony itself, and
“ love and pleasure sparkle in his
“ eyes. He is more, oh ! infinitely
“ more than thought can conceive.

These

These words fully confirmed the pretended fryar in what before he had a doubtful conjecture of; and by the beginning of her confession, having been fired to wish; he was no longer at a loss how to proceed, or under the necessity of taking any further pains to continue his dissembled gravity.

“ I foresee indeed my lovely
“ daughter.” said he, “ that it will
“ be very difficult to keep your
“ vow : but before I offer any argu-
“ ments to enable you to withstand
“ these o’erwhelming torrents of pas-
“ sion, I must be better acquainted
“ with your soul, and see how far
“ (if such a temptation should arise)
“ you will be able of yourself to re-
“ pulse it. Suffer me then, pursued
“ he, to assume your posture, while
“ you put yourself in mine, and if
“ possible, imagine me to be the
“ man,

the Marchioness of BEAUVILLE. 41

“ man, who is so happy as to merit
“ your love. I will endeavour to
“ behave in the same manner as he
“ would do, were he in my place,
“ while you act in the same manner
“ as you would were he alone with
“ you and prostrate at your feet.”

Saying this, he rose from the chair, and having placed her in it, he threw himself on his knees before her, and began to act the part he had assumed in the following manner ; “ Loveliest of your sex,” cried he, taking one of her hands and putting it to his lips, “ why will you
“ thus long delay a blessing, which
“ (if conferred upon me) would
“ make me the happiest of mankind?
“ you own your love, and
“ can you thus see me torn with
“ wild impatience, yet forbear to
“ ease me? what could my most
“ cruel enemy do more than raise
“ my

“ my expectations, and then delude
“ my wishes, oh ! be not you thus
“ pityless.”

“ Consider fir, the vows by which
“ we both are bound,” answered
she, (transported that he so well understood her meaning, and had taken so gallant a method of returning her passion) “ what, what are vows,” resumed he, in the most tender accent, “ when rashly taken, and
“ when opposed to charity ? charity
“ is the noblest of all virtues ; and
“ sure it is the highest of all charities, to save the life of him who
“ loves you. Believe me, thou divine one, that I cannot live without you, and where there is so
“ absolute a necessity, every thing
“ is excusable. Nay, should you
“ continue to refuse my suit, if I
“ even forced the joy, both heaven
“ and you would sure forgive the
“ boldness.”

With

With these words he arose, and snatching her suddenly to his breast, began indeed to shew himself the encouraged lover, and seize in good earnest what he had counterfeited to desire in jest.

The amorous nun threw off all dissimulation too, and with unfeigned ardour returned all his endearments; the eager longing for the joy she now possessed, gave a double relish to the accomplishment of it, and the pleasing surprize to find himself so greatly beloved where he least expected it, served to add to the felicity which he experienced in the enjoyment of his charmer. They parted not, till forced by necessity, and not then without a thousand vows of the most inviolable fidelity to each other.

I being

I being the next he was obliged to visit, what an alteration did I find in his behaviour. He insinuated that his coldness proceeded from a sudden indisposition. This served him also as an excuse for not going to the other cells that day, and consequently furnished him with an opportunity of coming again the next day to make up his omissions.

He found so much pleasure in his intrigue with the fair Charlotta, (for that was the name of this charming nun) that he could not even continue his dissimulation with me, since there was no way of seeing the one without the other : But all things must have their vicissitudes. This passion too, at last, submitted to the same fate as the former, and he grew as heartily tired of Charlotta, as he had been of me. But what, even more than his satiety made him resolve to throw

throw off the friar, was, that the uneasinefs I suffered was now grown fo great, that it was impoffible for him to fee me without it's making fome impreffion on him, though not in the way I defired.

In fhort, he had fo much good-nature as would not fuffer him to be witnefs of a calamity, he was refolved never to relieve ; and therefore acquainted father Colbert with what had happened, and returned the habit, which had been fo ferviceable to his pleasures, with the addition of 500 livres.

He defired this obliging fryar alfo to tell me he was hurried into the country by his father with fo much expedition, that he had not time to take his leave, but that at his return, he would do every thing which I defired ; and that if Charlotta, as it
was

was probable she would, asked any questions concerning the young priest, who had officiated in his room, (for he had not disclosed to her his real name or quality) to tell her that he was remanded back by his superiors, and had not the leisure to thank the abbess for the favours he had received from her.

Father Colbert assured him that he would not fail to execute this commission as faithfully as he had done the former ones, and Marrinet now found an ease in getting rid of his mistresses, not less delightful, than the joy he felt in obtaining them.

But this tranquility was of as short duration as the former tumultuous joys; the friar found me not so susceptible of consolation as he had imagined. I found myself, alas! preg-

pregnant; and if any thing could exceed the distraction of my soul, for the unkindness of Marrinet, it was the thought to what this consequence of my indulged passion must reduce me.

I communicated my misfortune to father Colbert, who was little less troubled and frightened at it than myself. He soon imparted it to Marrinet, and never were there people more perplexed though from different motives.

I dreaded the shame to which I should be exposed, and the punishment inflicted on those, who after they are received into the monastery, are guilty of indulging criminal desires. Marrinet troubled, lest no other means should be found to gain his pardon, for having seduced a devoted maid, than that of marry-
ing

ing her ; and the friar, not doubting but that the condition I was in would bring every thing to light, expected a most cruel death, as being necessary to so great a prophanation of the holy order and habit.

For some days madness and despair itself was little in comparison to what we all three suffered through excessive fear ; but the friar's prolix invention, at last found out a method, with which, if he could prevail on me to acquiesce, seemed to promise a deliverance from all these evils.

It was to administer to me a drink of herbs and minerals, of so strong a nature, that it could not fail of causing an immediate abortion.

It was with an infinite deal of difficulty he prevailed on me to swallow
it ;

it; but the terrors of that death to which I knew that by the ecclesiastic law I was condemned if discovered, overcame all scruples of conscience, and in the presence of him that seduced me, I drank the fatal potion to the bottom.

He took leave of me soon after, happily enough for his safety, for he had not left the monastery many minutes before I was seized with pangs so terrible, as compelled me to cry out in the most vehement manner,

My shrieks soon alarmed all who were in the convent; the abbess herself attended by all the sisterhood came running to know the occasion, and before them all, I fell into such a condition, as sufficiently demonstrated to those, who were not very ignorant indeed, what I had been

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guilty

guilty of. Nothing ever equalled the trouble and amazement of the good abbess at this discovery.

The love she bore me made her very sorry that it had been public, which left no possibility of screening me from justice, without bringing an odium on herself and her whole community. Proper remedies were however applied for my recovery, which was at first dispaired of. The friar, through an over sollicitude of rendering what he gave me effectual to his design, had mingled too large a quantity of those pernicious ingredients, and made it little less fatal to the mother than to the unhappy infant.

The agonies I endured were increased by the horrors of my mind, and the remonstrances which were continually made me, of that extremity

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mity of wretchedness to which I was
exposed, prevailed on me to reveal
every particular of my guilt and
confusion.

The abbess took my confession in
writing, and having obliged me to
set my hand thereto sent it to a ma-
gistrate, in order to have Marrinet
and his sacrilegious abettor brought
to justice; but his good angel guard-
ed him from the rigour of his im-
pending fate.

Charlotta was also a witness to my
confession, and by it discovering
what she had never before the least
suspicion of, viz. that the lovely friar,
whom she had taken so much pains
to engage, was a young gentleman
named Marrinet, she was for some
minutes in a profound reverie. She
doubted whether she should send
him timely notice of what was de-

signed against him, or by remaining silent suffer him to fall into the snare as a punishment for concealing any thing from her who had done all in her power to serve him.

Good nature however, and the remembrance of past endearments, at length got the better of resentment, and a lay sister, whom she prevailed on by a bribe, carried the following lines to Marrinet.

“ To the faithless Marrinet.”

“ Unworthy as you are of my
“ friendship, I cannot suffer you to
“ fall into the hands of a merciless
“ prosecution, without giving you
“ warning of the approaching
“ blow.”

“ ’Tis needless to detain you by
“ relating particulars, let it suffice
“ to

the Marchioness of Beauville. 53

“ to tell you, that the whole history
“ of your intrigue with the amiable
“ Beauville, is by herself made
“ known, and a testimonial of it
“ sent to the president.

“ You know the consequence if
“ you are taken. Sacrilege, pro-
“ phanation and murder, are the
“ crimes with which you are char-
“ ged.

“ Make haste to avoid the storm,
“ which will otherwise overwhelm
“ you. Neglect not this advice, I
“ conjure you, nor delay one mo-
“ ment of your flight to some place
“ of safety. — Farewell ; wherever
“ you go think kindly of,”

“ Charlotta.”

“ Generous woman,” cry’d Mar-
“ rinet when he had read the letter,
“ for ever shall I remember thee

“ with the most grateful transports.
“ Had Beauville been of thy disposition, no threatnings nor persuasions would have obliged her
“ to expose the man she loved to
“ ruin.” These were but the first emotions of his passion; when he more coolly reflected on the misery of my condition, his own ingratitude and breach of promise, he could not in spite of the difficulties in which my confession involved him, but absolve me.

He did not spend much time in ruminating on this affair, but following Charlotta's advice, made all possible haste to avoid the ill effects of it; he ordered his horse to be got ready, and taking with him only one servant on whose fidelity he could depend, set out privately from the city, not acquainting any body with the place of his retreat.

The

the Marchioness of BEAUVILLE. 55

The care of his own safety did not however so far take up his thoughts, as to make him forget that of the person who for serving him was in equal if not superior danger with himself. He made diligent search after father Colbert, designing to make him the companion of his flight, and thereby protect him from the fury of the offended brotherhood: but all his endeavours to find him were in vain, and though by staying he was in imminent danger, yet he could not be persuaded to go, till having sent wherever he thought he might be found without success, he imagined that having notice of what happened by some other means, he had been before hand with him in his escape.

But divine justice had decreed otherwise. The wretch more loaded with crimes than years, not having
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the least idea that the potion he gave me would either have so immediate, or so violent an effect, prevented the search the officers were about to make for him, by coming of his own accord into the monastery, having at his last visit left a book behind him. He was presently seized, and being made sensible of the crime, he was dragged to prison, there to wait the sentence of his death.

But to return to my own case: I endured agonies both of mind and body so terrible, as to beggar all description. To add to my distraction, I beheld my parents, who by this time were apprized of the whole dreadful truth in such a manner, that to have seen them so on any other account, must have cracked the strings of my tender heart: what then did I feel when I reflected that
it

the Marchioness of BEAUVILLE. 57

it was owing to myself ; that it was for my crimes they suffered. Every cry which my afflicted mother sent forth, was a dagger to my guilty soul, and in my father's downcast looks, contracted brow, and every now and then a gushing tear forcing its passage ; I read the vengeance of offended heaven, and the curse I had incurred for the sorrow I made him feel, to whom, next to almighty God I owed my existence.

Life now became hateful to me. I wished to die yet (as the poet says) durst not death endure. The terror of hereafter shocked my apprehension, and made nature start. When my father talked of soliciting for a pardon, I replied, " no, no, I must not, cannot live. Crimes such as mine deserve not a reprieve, nor can I bear to live pressed with this load of shame."

When

When any discourse arose which seemed to hint that if the former part of my crime, that of my amour, might find mercy in consideration of my youth, and the promises of Marinette, yet the latter, viz. that of destroying by unlawful means the product of my guilty joys, no favour could alleviate. When I was reproached with this, I answered, “of
“ that sin I am innocent, I knew
“ not that it was a crime; the wretch
“ appointed for my spiritual guide
“ assured me that it was not. It is
“ he therefore, who ought to feel
“ the punishment for such a crime.”

I had nothing left to wish or hope for; I could not bear to live, and yet I could not endure the thoughts of death. The apprehensions of both were terrible, both equally dreadful to sustain.

the Marchioness of BEAUVILLE. 59

The still tender father laboured however incessantly to procure my pardon, offering the whole of his fortune to be disposed of in charitable uses, as an atonement for my crime. But the one appeared either too enormous to be pardoned, or the other too small to be accepted, and I, the unhappy transgressor, was doomed to that death commonly inflicted in such cases, viz. that of being buried alive.

The person appointed to bring me this sad news, loth to discharge his trust, began by informing me, in how great esteem my father was held at court; how much the judges commiserated his unhappy case, and with what a zeal and earnestness my cause was pleaded.

He dwelt so long on this subject, that I doubted not but my pardon
was

was signed, and the reflection of the shame, contempt and remorse I must undergo in life, made me exclaim, "Oh! I shall never endure it; the most terrible of all deaths would be less severe, than such a life of woe."

Thus did I continue to cry out, testifying my detestation of living, till the priest who had occasioned this mistake, interrupted me, saying, "I rejoice to find you in this willingness to die, since all the pleadings of your friends, nor the inclination which the judges had to preserve you, could so far subvert the law, as to obtain a pardon for your crime."

"You must prepare for death," said he to me, "within three days." These words struck terror into me; and notwithstanding the hatred I had expressed

the Marchioness of BEAUVILLE. 61

expressed for life, nothing could equal the horror I felt, when I heard I must resign it. I accused the severity of the law, taxed the judges with cruelty, and even arraigned my father for being deficient in his solicitations. I gave such signs of despair in all my words and actions, that every one imagined I was mad.

Some pious men were appointed to calm the tempest my soul endured, and by their arguments and admonitions, I was at last brought to a state of more moderation. And when the time came which was to put a period to my woes, I suffered myself to be put down alive into my grave, with a courage little to be expected from the irresolution of my former behaviour. How my life was afterwards miraculously preserved I shall acquaint the reader after I have related what was the fate of father Colbert and Marrinet.

The

The fryar by whose pernicious counsels and contrivance I was become so wretched, met the death decreed for him with less fortitude or resignation than I did, and died unpitied, unlamented, a spectacle of horror and detestation.

Marrinet, who in his retirement had been informed of all that had passed, perceiving that there was no returning in safety, embarked in the first ship that left the port.

He passed some years in travelling, alleviating as much as possible the grief of this unhappy catastrophe of his amour, by observing the customs of foreign courts, all which time his friends were employed in soliciting a pardon for him, which they at last obtained.

But the lovely ruiner, although he escaped the sentence of the law,
was

the Marchioness of BEAUVILLE. 63

was not long permitted to triumph in the mischiefs which his indulged desire had caused.

My father and mother were both dead of grief for the dishonour of their family, and the supposed loss of a beloved child, but they left behind them a son, who resolved to revenge the injury Marrinet had done to our family, if ever he returned.

Accordingly he no sooner heard of the young gentleman's return than he went to meet him, and provoking him to fight, animated with the deadliest rage, he slew him on the spot. He was immediately secured by some persons passing by and carried to prison. He did not attempt to deny or extenuate the fact, but boldly owned, that what he had done, were it again to do, he

he would fly to act with the same readiness as before.

Being condemned to die, he suffered the execution of his sentence with the same courage as he had incurred it, saying he looked on himself as the instrument of divine justice in punishing one, who though a rebel to all laws both human and sacred, had been preserved by partial favour, and that the death he was now about to receive, was his glory, not his shame.

The magnanimity of his behaviour drew tears from all the spectators. What a scene of blood and ruin did my imprudence bring on my family? May those who have not lost their virtue take warning by me, and thereby shun those vices, that they may avoid such misfortunes.

I must

the Marchioness of BEAUVILLE. 65

I must now inform the reader in what manner I was preserved from the jaws of death. It may be remembered I was put down alive into my grave, expecting nothing but to languish a short time and then die, but providence had ordered it otherwise. The vault into which I was put was extremely large, and at the farther end, in a corner was placed a bed, a table with some books and a crucifix, a lamp burning on the table, and a paper folded up, which on opening I found contained the following words.

“Dear Sister,”

“Almighty God whose wrath is
“easily appeased when sincere re-
“pentance follows sin, has inspired
“me to consider of proper means
“to save your life, without injuring
“the

“ the community, which your crime
“ had well nigh brought into eter-
“ nal disrepute with the world. I
“ have therefore devised the fol-
“ lowing scheme to save your life.
“ This evening after complin, a
“ sister whom I have entrusted with
“ the secret, will bring you a secular
“ habit, which you are to put on,
“ and at midnight I will be in the
“ church and let you out of the
“ tomb, and thus you may escape
“ under the covert of the night. I
“ conjure you never to return to this
“ city any more, lest you plunge
“ us all in inevitable destruction. I
“ will give you all your money and
“ other of your effects : I must in-
“ sist on your changing your name,
“ as the common safety demands
“ it.”

“ Dear sister,”

“ Yours, in all holy love.”

“ Anna Maria.”

This

the Marchioness of BEAUVILLE. 67

This letter filled me with inexpressible joy : I fell on my knees, and with the greatest fervor, gave thanks to the great creator of all things, for his unparalleled goodness to me : I wept with great compunction over my past failings, and made many promises of never being guilty of the like heinous crime again.

I waited with the utmost impatience the arrival of the hour appointed for my deliverance : At the desired time the sister came with my secular dress, which the better to conceal my person was, that of a country girl. I kissed the messenger who brought me these things, I hung on her neck, and bathed her face with tears which flowed from a pure principle of gratitude. I put on these new weeds provided for me, and sat down very contented in mind. I passed the remainder of
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the time between complin and midnight in reading and praying, when just as the clock struck twelve, the good abbess came into the church alone, bringing the keys with her. She let me know she was there by a signal agreed on between us, and I came out of the grave, and falling prostrate before her in token of acknowledgment for her goodness, she earnestly begged I would not trifle away the time in fruitless thanks, but hasten my departure, lest the sisterhood being alarmed, my escape would not only be hindered, but also she herself might be called to account for having saved the life of a criminal, condemned to death by the ecclesiastical court, from whose sentence there can be no appeal. I therefore quickly took leave of her, and she led me out at a back door, and having fastened it she retired to her own cell.

I wan-

the Marchioness of BEAUVILLE. 69

I wandered about all that night, and the next morning found myself at a small village about four miles distant from Paris. Here I waited two days, 'till a stage coach going to Brussels, I took a place in it and arrived in that city in four days after.

I was no sooner got thither, but being very uneasy in mind, and above all unwilling to remain in the world, I determined to place myself in a convent as a pensioner, which having done, I began to look on myself as the happiest mortal on earth.

Having thus happily escaped death, and being placed in a convent at Orleans, I began to lead a truly religious life. The exercise of virtue was my only study, and for more than three years I was looked on by all the sisterhood as a great exam-

example of piety. But this reformation lasted not much longer: again I sighed for pleasure: the theatres, cards, feasting, dancing and public assemblies engrossed all my thoughts, and I determined to quit the state of a recluse, and launch again into the gay world. I languished to behold the admiring youths fill up my glittering train, and to hear their soft addresses.

Before I proceed to the narrative of the following adventure, which in it's consequences proved so fatal to the parties concerned, I shall beg leave to premise, that it is a most pregnant instance of the danger of giving way to a passion, which is too often attended with unhappy circumstances. Take warning, unwary maids! pity me, who has often yielded to the force of a too powerful temptation.——But to return to my own story.

I gave

the Marchioness of BEAUVILLE. 71

I gave orders therefore to have an elegant house hired and fitted up, and every thing was preparing for my return into the world, when I was seized with a sudden passion, which raged with so much violence, that I had not patience till that time for the gratification of it.

Among the number of friars who visited this convent, there was one called father John: he was descended of a noble and illustrious family, and though a younger son, was not designed for the cowl, but had an education more suitable for a man who was to make his fortune by the court, not quit it for a cloyster.

He sung, danced, played admirably well upon the harpsichord, and had a most engaging address. Add to this, he had the finest eyes, the loveliest complexion, a shape and air,

air, which not all the disadvantages of his habit could hinder from being perfectly graceful, and was not above twenty eight years of age.

The charms of his wit and person had been fatal to many a believing maid. Rarely had his declarations of love failed of the success he aimed at. His being so generally admired by the women, drew on him the envy and hatred of the men.

Several who had been frustrated in their designs by his superior graces, watched diligently for an opportunity of ruining him. But his most dangerous enemy was the Count de Marfin, who having been deprived by him of a favourite mistress, and unable to call him to account for it in his own person, as he was married to the most jealous woman imaginable,

the Marchioness of BEAUVILLE. 73

ginable, who had raised his fortune, and whom he durst not disoblige, he caused him to be affronted by his valet-de-chambre in public company.

He was young and fiery, and without considering their different conditions in life, he gave him an immediate challenge, which being accepted they met and fought.

Father John run his adversary through the heart at the second or third pass ; and being taken before he could make his escape, was try'd for his life. The laws of that country being extremely severe against duelling, and very much enforced by the friends of the count de Marfin, he received sentence of death. The interest of his friends however procured him several successive reprieves ; and at length on condition

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of

of disposing of his whole fortune in charitable uses, renouncing the world and becoming a monk, he received a free pardon.

This caused him to embrace a religious state; but though the fear of death, or the desire of life had so great an influence over him, as to oblige him to change his habit, his heart was still the same, his inclinations as wandering, and his taste for pleasure as keen as it had been.

He was indeed under the necessity of gratifying his passion with more secrecy than before, and was therefore happy in less frequent opportunities of indulging it.

At my first entrance into the monastery I had been too much taken up with the thoughts of Marrinet, and since with my design of returning

the Marchioness of BEAUVILLE. 75

ing to the world, to take any notice of this charming hypocrite, though I had often seen him in company with other friars ; but it was not with that slight and transient view he had regarded me, whose beauty, which had so small an influence over Marrinet, gained the most transcendent one my vanity could wish over this young friar.

With the most ardent wishes did he burn, with softest languishments did his whole soul dissolve whenever he beheld me ; but the little observation which he perceived I made on him, not giving him an opportunity to practise on me those arts, which he had try'd with so much success on others, he was obliged to smother in painful silence the agitations of his mind, repining at his fate, without the means of obtaining relief.

For some weeks he laboured under this, the severest circumstance of an amorous flame; still wishing, still desiring, yet hopeless of ever obtaining, or even making the dear object of his affection sensible of the pain he suffered on her account, but at last a favourable opportunity, which exceeded the fondest wishes of a most passionate lover, when he entertains the fondest hopes, crowned his ardent wishes with success.

The spiritual guide of my thoughts, on some occasion being obliged to quit the convent, father John was nominated to supply his place, and received orders accordingly to attend me.

Scarce was the transported lover able to contain the emotions of his soul from those, in whose presence it was most his interest to conceal it; but

the Marchioness of BEAUVILLE. 77

but overcoming the symptoms of this passion, as he had done those of the other which so long tormented him, he received this news mission only as a priest would do, who had no other motive than religion to induce him to take on him the charge of a confessor.

He seemed before he had this opportunity to want only a happy occasion, but he now found that he needed much more. He had imagined by the fire which sparkled in my eyes, that my heart was not entirely cold, and could not believe but there was a stock of amorous inclinations in my soul, but he remained still in doubt whether they were not already engaged and devoted to another.

Great were the difficulties he had to encounter, and had he been agi-

tated by an ordinary passion only, and not possessed of more courage and resolution than most men are, he had yet desisted: But former successes having given him proofs how great was his power of charming, he flattered himself with an assurance of making an impression on my heart, had it not been already prepossessed in favour of another.

The hour being arrived in which he was to visit the dear idol of his present adorations, he found me alone, and with such a gaiety mixed with softness in my countenance, as seemed a lucky omen to his hopes.

The first formalities of his function being over, approaching me with an air which had in it something irresistably engaging, "madam," said he, "I know not whether I ought to look on the choice of those who
" ap-

the Marchioness of BEAUVILLE. 79

“appointed me your confessor as
“the effect of my good or ill for-
“tune, but am certain you will find
“so great a difference between me
“and that reverend father I am ap-
“pointed to succeed, that I tremble
“to officiate in his room.”

Though these words were far from containing any declaration of love, yet they appeared so mysterious that I was greatly perplexed for a reply to them ; and agitated greatly, not only on account of his manner of expressing himself, but also for the various graces with which he was endowed.

“I hope sir,” answered I, “my
“conduct will never give you so
“much occasion to repent the charge
“you have undertaken, as to make
“you think charity a misfortune.”

“Charity, madam,” briskly interrupted father John, “ought to take birth at home, and if while I endeavour to fortify you in those principles which tend to peace, I lose my own for ever; how fatal would that virtue be! how much less wretched had I been never to have been known to you, than to be known and scorned?”

A softness inexpressible beamed from his eyes while he spoke this, and every feature denoted the tender tumult of his soul; but when he ceased, a sigh so deep as seemed to rend his breast supplied the place of words, and while it forbade him to utter more, declared his meaning in a manner which baffled all language, and triumphed over the faint arts of eloquence.

I had

the Marchioness of BEAUVILLE. 81

I had been too much acquainted with such kind of intelligence not to understand what this meant, and by his silence having now an opportunity of observing him, his eyes being cast on the ground, I discovered so many charms in him, that I imagined him an angel in human shape, and in a moment I felt a flame which made a gradual progress in my bosom.

“It would ill become me sir” answered I, “to treat a person of
“your character otherwise than
“with the greatest respect. Besides,
added I blushing, “it is impossible
“to look on you and believe you
“have renounced the world, be-
“cause you have been ill treated in
“it. No, rather having engrossed
“the esteem of all the fair sex, in
“pity to the less deserving of yours,
“you generously retire and hide
“that

“ that merit which when present
“ eclipsed all other men.”

“ Praises from your amiable self,”
answered he, “ might well excuse
“ my growing vain : had I ever
“ seen a form like yours, no con-
“ sideration could have prevailed on
“ me to take a vow which makes it
“ criminal for me to adore any
“ other beauties than those of her
“ mind. Ah ! why, (continued he,
“ looking on me with eyes full of
“ tenderness) why from those per-
“ sons destined to renounce the
“ world, does heaven not take away
“ the appetite ! how vain are oaths,
“ how fruitless all the bounds which
“ virtue and religion set, when
“ charms like yours stand in oppo-
“ sition, and overpowering love
“ swells up the soul.

“ Pardon

the Marchioness of BEAUVILLE. 83

“ Pardon this declaration,” added he, after a little pause, perceiving or imagining he perceived a certain sternness in my countenance,
“ because ’tis unavoidable ; my life
“ is in your power, dispose of it as
“ you please, for since this passion
“ has taken possession of my faculties, all other suggestions are impertinent. I must adore you,
“ charming angel, must tell you so,
“ must use my utmost endeavours
“ to engage you to pity what I now
“ feel though instant death be the
“ consequence of my rash attempt.”

“ I should be unworthy of the
“ love you profess,” returned I,
“ were I disposed to be so ungrateful as to reward you with deceit
“ and base information. The secret
“ of your love shall never be divulged by me ; and would to heaven
“ ven

“ven it were as much in my pow-
“er to ease those pains of which
“you complain, as I am inclined to
“compassionate them.”

“Heaven ! what contradictions
“do these few words contain ?” re-
“sumed he, “can you compas-
“sionate without easing me ? That,
“that alone is all my fondest hopes
“could promise. Pity is the most
“tender emotion of the soul, nor
“can the wretch so comforted, re-
“gret his lot. While you vouch-
“safe to listen to my love, to look
“with soft forgiveness on me, what
“more will this habit and the vow
“I have taken permit me to en-
“treat ?”

“Ah !” said I, interrupting him,
“can you stop there ? will you for
“ever be contented that I listen to
“your addresses without a frown.
“Will a cold friendship and a just
“esteem

the Marchioness of PEAUVILLE. 85

“esteem be always the extent of
“your desires? will not encroaching
“love, in spite of vows, of virtue
“and religion, seek more substantial
“food, than such as the spirit can afford?
“examine your heart, and tell me if you can be
“prevailed on to be so easily satisfied.”

I accompanied these words with a smile, which sufficiently indicated to him what answer would be most advantageous to his design.

My looks that moment gave him full intimation of all that passed within my soul, and told him, that by appearing desirous of a little, he ought to receive but little.

Nothing indeed can be more certain, than that he would have gained my eternal displeasure, had he
in

in the least abated the first ardour of his pretensions.

Adapting therefore his looks and gestures to his words, "Ah! madam," said he, "why do you cruelly enforce a question which you are sensible I cannot answer as I ought. I dare not deceive you, nor should I be believed if I should boast so great a sway over that passion which commands the world, and leaves us not the government of ourselves. Yes most adorable Beauville, since you oblige me to this declaration, I must confess, that the desires with which my bosom heaves, are proportioned to the charms which have inspired them, and are too extensive to be limited."

I replied to this in a manner neither to give hope nor despair, but in
an

the Marchioness of BEAUVILLE. 87

an amour like this, not to inflict the one, was a certain encouragement to the other.

Instead of confession, absolution, and the other offices of his function, I obliged him to spend some part of the time we were together in relating the history of his life, and the reasons which had induced him to turn friar. The rest was taken up in pursuing the design he had began, in which he succeeded so well, that before we parted he received sufficient marks of favour from me to feed imagination with, and enable him to support absence.

He went away filled with pleasing ideas, and left me in a delightful hurry of spirits, an agreeable disorder which nothing but the infancy of love can create.

Never

Never did I feel more of the sweet passion than now ; the charming friar appeared more lovely than Marrinet, or all mankind besides, and as the reader may judge from my former behaviour, being no ways disposed to controul my inclinations, I thought of nothing but indulging them in the most agreeable manner.

The necessary preparations for my return into the world being almost finished, I resolved the first thing I did after my removal from the monastery, to make father John happy.

I proposed to myself an infinite deal of pleasure from an intrigue with him; his function rendering it more dangerous for him to have it discovered on his own account than it would have been shameful on mine,

the Marchioness of BEAUVILLE. 89

mine, made me secure of his inviolable secrecy.

Besides the risque he ran in making an amorous declaration, rendered me also pretty easy with regard to any suspicions of his constancy. Every thing conspired to prepossess me with the brightest idea of happiness, that an amorous heart could form.

I had been so long retired from the world, to rush into it again abruptly would have been so indecent an action, as must of necessity subjected me to the scorn and censure of all my acquaintance.

Being therefore obliged to remain there longer than was agreeable to my inclinations, the impatient young friar was incessantly pressing me to gratify his ardent desires, 'till at length

length he obtained a promise from me of yielding to him all that rapacious love could ask, the moment I quitted the monastery.

But father John being obliged to wait longer for the promised bliss than his impetuous flame was able to endure, one day finding me in a disposition more than ordinarily favourable to his wishes, he did not let the happy moment slip, but without waiting for a full consent, boldly seized the fortunate occasion, and half yielding, half reluctant as I was, left nothing more for me to give, nor him to desire.

——But as the Poet says,

——The faults of love

By love are justified.

When a woman is convinced that she is beloved, or but imagines it, a
crime

the Marchioness of BEAUVILLE. OF
crime of this nature, but enhances
the merit of the passion; and the
more ungovernable it is, the more
it is entitled to forgiveness.

The enchanting extasies which
the happy father John enjoyed,
were a sufficient excuse for his bold-
ness; neither did he need the less
effectual aid of words to gain his
pardon from me.

Never did the wanton god behold
a sacrifice more worthy of his ac-
ceptance, than that now offered
him by this enamoured priest and
myself.

We were not able to part from
each other, though reason told us
to be too long together might raise
suspicion, and affect father John's
life.

At

At length however he tore himself away; but failed the next day to renew the happiness of the foregoing one.

Many succeeding ones were passed in the same manner, and indeed it seemed as if enjoyment had but encreased our mutual ardor, and the more we possessed the more we still desired.

By the beginning of our amour, 'tis probable we might have continued a long series of guilty rapture, if heaven, who rarely suffers the breach of vows to go unpunished, had not put a period to it as full of horror, as the crime had been of delight.

Before I entered this monastery, the warmth of, father John's constitution had engaged him to make an
amo-

the Marchioness of BEAUVILLE. 93

amorous declaration to a young devotee called Marriana. His charms had the same influence on her as they had had on many others; all the considerations of her vow and the dangers to which the breach of it exposed her, were buried in more powerful love. She yielded to his pressures, and became as guilty as he could wish. The consequence of which condescension was what might naturally be expected, — she was pregnant.

Father John being informed of it by her, was with great reason alarmed, both for his own sake and hers, and not having presence of mind immediately to resolve on what was best to be done, and being soon after seized with an indisposition, which prevented him for some time from coming to the monastery, he found means by a brother friar,

to give her the best advice in his power, how to prevent the growing shame from discovery. The friar whom he entrusted delivered a letter to her of the following import.

“ To the most angelick of her sex,
“ Marriana.”

“ Sickness depriving me of the
“ happiness of your ever charming
“ presence, at a time when most
“ necessary that we might consult
“ together in what manner we
“ should avert the danger which
“ threatens both. I send this epistle
“ to comfort you in a distress, which
“ as nothing but excess of love and
“ tenderness could occasion, so ought
“ not to be judged by other motives.

“ Yet will the busy world pre-
“ tend to censure what they cannot
“ comprehend: and when an affair
“ of

the Marchioness of BEAUVILLE. 95

“ of this nature becomes known,
“ with what severity is it treated,
“ with what cruelty is it punished
“ in persons of our state.

“ I have been therefore studying
“ on the remedy for this impending
“ evil, and can find none so proper
“ as your consenting to take drugs
“ proper to prevent the little pledge
“ of our love coming to maturity.

“ There is no way for you to be
“ delivered of it with secrecy, else
“ I would not give you this advice,
“ which unless you follow, we are
“ both inevitably lost.

“ The good man who brings you
“ this, will from time to time bring
“ you such medicines as are proper
“ for our purpose, though I hope
“ soon to be able to see you, and
“ re-enjoy in your dear arms those
“ feli-

“felicities which have for ever confirmed me,”

“Your most passionate adorer,

“John.”

To this letter she sent an answer full of tenderness, and acquiesced to every thing he requested, for the common safety of both; but the foolish fondness of her sex, not permitting her to burn this testimony, she preserved it in her bosom for the pleasure of reading it frequently over, and renewing in imagination those joys which she had experienced, were in the power of the dear author of it to bestow.

This had been the first letter she had ever received from him, and she thought it would be an indignity to the passion he professed, if she destroy-

destroyed this testimony of it. To tear off therefore the name, was all she could prevail on herself to do, and one day being at prayers in the chapel, kneeling a little longer than the condition she was in could well bear, she fainted away.

I happening to be nearest her, unpinned her mantle, with a design to give her air, but in so doing, the fatal scroll dropped from her breast, which I, being too inquisitive, immediately took up and conveyed into my pocket unperceived by her.

As soon as I was alone I examined the contents, and being thoroughly acquainted with the love and misfortune of Marriana, was so far from pitying her, that I presently disclosed the discovery I had made to the abbess, who desiring to have the letter in her possession, made all

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imaginable enquiry into the affair, but none to whom she shewed it knowing the hand, she was obliged to wait till time should bring it to light.

The intended murder of the unborn innocent was prevented in the following manner. Marriana having told them, that finding herself in an ill state of health, she had resolved to take something which might restore her ; they took not the least notice of their suspicions, but when the friar came, whom they understood by the letter was the person pitched on to convey the drugs, they told him, that Marriana being extremely ill and confined to her bed, desired he would leave the potion for her, which he not doubting the truth of, readily consented to.

He

the Marchioness of Beauville. 99

He was no sooner gone than they exchanged the phyal for another filled only with a rich cordial, and gave it to Marriana, telling her it had been left for her by that person, who being in haste on an extraordinary occasion, could not stay to see her himself.

Thus the wicked designs of father John was frustrated, and Marriana grew every day nearer her time.

The transgressing friar at his return to the monastery, being wholly taken up with the charms of another lady, little regarded Marriana, another of the same order having been appointed in his absence to attend her as a spiritual guide, he saw her not, and not doubting but the potion he had sent had worked the desired effect, thought of her no more.

The abbess who observed her carefully, perceived she wanted not much of the time which was to make her a mother, and therefore said nothing to her of the discovery she had made, resolving to let the ruin come at once upon her, judging naturally that in her circumstances, she would be brought to confess the partner of her guilty joys with much more readiness in the critical minute of her delivery.

The success of her contrivance answered her expectation. Those pangs, which can only be conceived by those who have felt them, coming on her with the utmost acuteness, her shrieks and cries which she was unable to restrain, alarmed the whole convent.

The abbess who now doubted not but the expected hour was at last arrived,

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arrived, sent immediately for a proper assistant in this extremity.

She conducted her to the cell where Marriana lay, and giving her in few words to understand that she was not unacquainted either with her guilt, or the misfortune which attended, assured her she must expect no relief, unless she revealed the author of her shame.

At first she refused to do this, but the abbess reminding her that she could by no other means be delivered from her present torments in this world, nor hope forgiveness in the other, joined with the consideration of the unkindness of father John, who had never endeavoured either to see or write to her, as she knew he might have done, was at last prevailed on to give not only the name required, but also the whole

history of their amour, entreating forgiveness of heaven and the abbess, conjuring her to use her utmost endeavours that she might escape that death which is the punishment assigned for crimes of the like nature.

The good lady conscious of her inability to serve her in that regard, made but a slight answer to that request, and having ordered the midwife to do her office, leaving a lay sister and two or three nuns to assist her, withdrew in order to send in search of father John. But as she was dispatching a messenger to him, one of the nuns told her he was in the monastery, and that she had seen him enter my chamber. On this she went thither, accompanied by three or four of the sisterhood, after having procured proper officers to secure him as he came out.

Con-

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Confession is esteemed so sacred a thing, that in spite of the virtuous indignation they had conceived against him, they forbore to disturb him while they imagined him employed in that duty, but having waited for a considerable time in the gallery, and observing he staid much longer than was necessary or usual, they went softly to the door, and pushing it open, to their inexpressible amazement beheld me and the seeming holy friar sleeping in each others arms, and in such a posture as could leave them no room to doubt what had occasioned such inadvertant a drowsiness.

Their sudden entrance and the exclamations they made at so unexpected a sight, awakened us both from dreams of bliss, and that sweet disorder of the mind which our late raptures had imprinted there, we

started to real anguish, shame and horror inexpressible, and I gave a shriek which echoed through the convent.

Father John with a sullen air, and a dreadful disorder in his looks, bore this detection of his guilt, and without uttering a reply we both received the just reproaches of the astonished spectators.

After they had loaded us with the severest reproaches, they told us what had happened to Marriana, with the means used to prevent the intended abortion. This was no sooner mentioned but father John being discovered to me to be the author of that horrid design, I cried out, "wretch that thou art! by me
" wert thou discovered, by me wert
" thou betrayed; 'twas I who found
" that letter, and not suspecting
" that

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“ that the writer would have ever
“ been so dear to me, discovered it
“ to the abbess.”

And here I beg leave to make the following observation : let no woman out of curiosity, ill nature or affectation of virtue expose the failings of another, lest the malicious folly recoil upon herself, as mine on me.

Father John could not forbear looking on me with a reproachful aspect, though mixed with tenderness, and unwilling to hear more, he turned to the abbess and said,
“ madam, I see there is no misde-
“ meanor of my life a secret.—I
“ desire therefore that I may be
“ yielded up to that punishment
“ which the secular law inflicts on
“ criminals like me. Death is

“torture less poignant than your just
“reproaches.”

“I am sorry,” replied the abbess shaking her head, “to see you
“rather affect to condemn death
“than a penitential fear of it; but
“I shall leave you to be made sensible of your crime by those who
“are more capable of so doing.
“All that I can do for you is to wish
“that heaven may as easily pardon
“your breach of vows and proph-
“nation of your holy order, as I
“would were it in my power the
“affront and scandal you have
“brought on this monastery.”

With these words she took him by the hand, and led him out of the chamber. A deep sigh was the farewell he took of me, but the natural impetuosity of my temper not permitting me to be restrained by shame,
I burst

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I burst into exclamations of grief and despair.

I raved, I tore my hair and garments, cursed the severity of monastic laws, and spared neither virtue nor religion in the extremity of my anguish.

In the mean time the terror to which Marriana was involved adding to the danger and pain of that condition into which her inadvertent love had brought her, exempted her from that sentence which otherwise she could not have escaped.

She died the same moment that she brought into the world a daughter; a milder fate than that of being immured between two walls, till with extremity of hunger she had been reduced to prey on her own flesh; or buried while alive, wrapped

in the dress and horrors of the grave in perfect health, and strength of sense and thought.

All imaginable care was taken of the new born babe, and the abbess promised to educate her in such a manner, as might enable her to produce works of supererogation at once to atone for her mother's crimes, and redeem her soul from purgatory.

But to return to father John : the unhappy gentleman had numberless afflictions to combat with ; the death of Marriana, the infamy with which he had covered me, the ruin in which his fatal love had involved us, and his tormented conscience made his remonstrances far more touching than all the holy fathers were capable of.

Never

Never countenance and behaviour were more altered than his when he appeared before the sacred judges of his cause, and though he seemed little to regard their reproof, and had nothing to offer in his defence, yet he was uneasy at being compelled to hear their accusations; troubled he was, yet sensible he had been guilty of a heinous sin, but too proud to confess his crime, or appear penitent for it. He knew that to deny the fact after such full conviction was as vain as hope of pardon after sentence in a court of spiritual judges.

He was immediately stripped of the habit he had so presumptuously prophaned, and doomed to die after lying three months in prison, the time being allowed him for preparation.

The friar whom he had made his confidant, and who by being the bearer of his letter to Marriana, and the potion intended for her to take in order to procure an abortion, was known to be so, and an assistant in the designed murder of the innocent unborn, was sentenced to no worse a punishment than that of being divested of his habit and sent into perpetual banishment.

Father John's friends did all they could to obtain the favor of his being sent also into exile, but as he was the principal transgressor, it could not be complied with.

The intercession was continued however, and the mediation of a beautiful female relation who greatly interested herself in his cause, at last prevailed so far on a certain cardinal at that time nuncio from Rome,

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Rome, that he wrote to the pope in his behalf, and obtained a pardon from his holiness as far as concerned life, and he was accordingly like his assistant friar exiled, without hope of ever more returning to his native land.

For my part, being only a boarder in the monastery, and the sisterhood being ignorant of what had happened to me in the other monastery (for I had kept this part of my life a profound secret) the law had no power to inflict any bodily punishment, and I only underwent some severe penances enjoined me by a new confessor of a different turn of mind from father John. I was also obliged to settle 500 ducats a year on the monastery as an atonement for the scandal I had brought on the community.

Having

Having settled my affairs I hastened my departure from the convent, and at the expiration of three days I took possession of the house which had been taken by my orders.

I was scarce settled in my new house when I found myself surrounded by an equal croud of admirers as before I embraced a retired life. Among the other votaries who continually offered incense at the altar of my beauty, was Don Carlos de Medina, eldest son of Don Juan de Medina, a rich nobleman of Barcelona, who had sent him on his travels. Don Juan out of zeal for the public welfare of his country, had exhausted the greatest part of his fortune in its cause, so that Don Carlos had but little expectations of an increase of fortune at his father's death. He was therefore obliged to live in the most frugal manner possible,

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the Marchioness of BEAUVILLE. 113
fible, in order to be able to appear
in a suitable character in all compa-
nies, he being equally carested by
the men as well as the women.

Though I was as agreeably settled
as I could wish, yet I did not enjoy
all that peace of mind I wished for.
My maid whom Don Carlos had
bribed to solicit me in his favor was
incessantly harranguing on his good
qualities, and by all the arguments
she was mistress of, endeavoured to
prevail with me to receive Don
Carlos's addresses.

Toinette (for that was her name)
having already collected too many
of the favourable sentiments of my
heart with regard to Don Carlos,
she flew to him with all imaginable
speed, and acquainted him with the
success with which her endeavours
to serve him had been crowned.

He rewarded her diligence with a purse of gold, and by her direction came the next day to my house, where he was no sooner arrived, than with abundance of pleasure she introduced him to me.

Poor Toinette thought she had removed all obstacles out of the way, and rendered me perfectly happy, and so indeed would any one else have been, and even I resolved to admit him with all the freedom and good nature possible. But Toinette had scarce quitted the apartment to make room for his entrance, when I became incapable of behaving in the manner I had proposed; I therefore called her back, and bid her make the best excuse she could for my not appearing.

He returned with a far heavier heart than she came, and after making

king a very plausible excuse for my refusing to see him, he mused a while, and then asked her whether she thought I had any aversion to his person, or for what other reason could I deny him my presence, and why he received his sentence from her own mouth? He desired her to tell him my real sentiments of him, that if they were in his favor, and he had only mistaken his measures, he might have an opportunity of altering them, or if they proceeded from any dislike to himself, he might then decline all farther trouble as useless to himself as me.

The poor good-natured creature not dreaming that the question would be put so close to her was at a loss how to answer, but thinking she should the more effectually serve me by telling the truth, plainly told him without any equivocation, she
was

was very sure my reserve did not proceed from any dislike to him, but rather from a contrary disposition: "for sir," said she, "ladies are always under the least restraint in the presence of those they never intend to admit to greater familiarities than in that of an acquaintance; but before a lover it becomes them to guard not only their actions but their very thoughts; and though a lady may esteem the person and character of her admirer as very deserving, yet the subject he proposes is of so serious a nature, as to require deliberate consideration; and 'till that is had, and her judgment duly confirmed, it is no wonder she should not chuse to expose herself to too great temptation."

She

She thought she had now both made him easy and played a good part for me too; but perceiving it had not the desired effect, and that he seemed still in the same distress of mind, she assured him that though it was not in her power then to introduce him, yet if he would come the next day at the same hour, he should see me, let what would be the consequence, with which he seemed tolerably satisfied, and retired.

Toinette took the opportunity (seeing me very dejected the next day) of telling me how much she thought me to blame for my behaviour to so fine a gentleman, saying many things in the highest commendation of him, and that surely no one but me would chuse to torment herself, when so fair an opportunity offered for gratifying her desires.

“ In-

“ Indeed,” says she, “ if you, ma-
“ dam loved Don Carlos without
“ any return, or with only a cold
“ indifference on his part would be
“ insupportable ; but to languish for
“ him while he is distracted for you,
“ and when the remedy is in your
“ own power too, is (pardon me
“ for saying so) too great a weakness
“ for me to believe you can long
“ remain subject to.”

I was sensible Toinette was right,
but had a hard struggle to say so ; at
last, “ dear Toinette,” says I, “ you
“ have discovered my foible ; I con-
“ fess myself to blame, and con-
“ demn my own actions as much as
“ you can, and am sorry now I did
“ not admit him yesterday, but did
“ such another opportunity offer, I
“ would certainly see him, though
“ that thought is now too late, he
“ will

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“ will come no more, after such an
“ inexpressible repulse.”

Toinette having watched me thus far, made an excuse to retire ; and soon afterwards, as I was sitting in my apartment she gently opened the door, and smiling, “ madam,” says she, “ Don Carlos,” when he immediately entered the room and she retired.

I had a piece of fine needlework in my hand, which in the surprize I let fall, when running to it he took it up, put it to his lips, and delivered it to me with so charming a grace, that I wished myself had fallen, to have received the same favour ; but he was no sooner seated, and had began to profess his passion, but I relapsed again into the same fatal modesty I had been so accustomed to, without a possibility of recovering

vering myself, or making any other reply than a loud declamation against his barbarity, in tormenting me with his presence, when I chose to be retired.

Don Carlos said all he could to reconcile me, but to no purpose; he then rose up and bad me adieu for ever, telling me, that since I could not bear the sight of him, he wished it might ever be possible for him to say the same with regard to me, as he was certain, that alone would ensure the future peace and happiness of both.

He was gone out of the room, when reflecting on the usage with which I treated him, I could have died at his feet to have seen him return; I found a hard task in drawing Toinette back to my presence, for she perceiving by Don Carlos's looks

looks the discontent of his mind, and imagining what had happened, expected her turn to come next for bringing him up so abruptly into my presence, and soon after I took her to task, but her excuses had such weight with me, that I could even have begged her pardon for the few hasty words I said to her.

Those who read this history will undoubtedly be surpris'd at this sudden and unexpected change in my disposition in love affairs. But let them consider, that we are inconceivably mutable in our inclinations, and that no passion whatever admits of so many vicissitudes, as that of love. While a recluse, I sought the conversation of man with the greatest ardor imaginable, as may be seen in the former part of my life; now left to myself, I as studi-

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ously

only avoided it.——but to return to my own adventures :

Surely human nature is not capable of enduring greater torments than I suffered all that night and the ensuing day ; I contrived various methods of excusing my weakness, and being reconciled to Don Carlos, and was settling the manner of executing it, when I received the following letter :

“ Madam,”

“ Finding it is impossible for me
“ to cease to love as not to shew it,
“ whilst so near to the only object
“ of my desires, I am removing
“ myself from your sight and notice ;
“ my torment cannot be greater
“ wherever I am, but it will be
“ some alleviation to my sufferings,
“ to

“to think I leave you free from all
“farther uneasiness from,”

“Carlos de Medina.”

Don Carlos's servant left this letter with Toinette, who observed me narrowly while I read it, and at length perceived my confusion, till at length a stupor seizing my vitals, I fell backwards into her arms. The poor girl used all the methods she could devise without calling any body to her assistance, and by degrees recovered me a little, when the torrent of despair returning with my senses, became too violent to admit of any relief.

I had scarcely composed myself, when I dressed and walked out in hopes of meeting Don Carlos, for I was now fully resolved to permit him to declare whatever he pleased

to me, and to comply with whatever he should desire, and if possible to excuse my late rudeness: here I was disappointed, for the first news I heard, was his departure at day-break upon his travels, according to a report he caused to be spread about. I almost fainted away in the street on hearing this, however I with difficulty reached home, and fell into a violent fit of illness, which continued above six months, and reduced me to a mere skeleton, but by the assistance of an able physician, I was happily restored to my pristine state of health.

At this time a cavalier, who entertained no mean opinion of his own qualifications, (and who would fain have persuaded me of his excellence) being tempted with the expectation of a large fortune, made his addresses to me, hoping undoubtedly,

tedly, to live easy with me on what I was worth, and I must own, I believe he was the most generous and open hearted lover that ever was. This military man coming one morning to enquire for me, I ordered him to be shewn into my dining room, where I was then sitting; the sight of him gave me much pleasure, for as he was a stranger, I entertained some hopes that he might have been the messenger of some news from Don Carlos.

The first compliments being over, and we being seated, he began to tell me that he had been in the army eleven years, and that for the three last he had borne the commission of a captain, telling me the name of his regiment at the same time. I began to wonder what all this tended to, when he continued his discourse, giving me to understand, that the

wars being over, and no more glory to be acquired in the field, he thought it high time, (being an enemy to an inactive life) to provide himself with a settlement at home; and hearing of me, my beauty, merit and fortune, he thought he could not do less than make me a tender of his person, and therefore pressed me warmly for an answer.

This blunt declaration was received by me with a sneer, both on his person and profession, which he looking on as a panegyrick in his own praise, in return assured me, I was a lady the fittest for a soldier he had ever met with: “for madam,” said he, drawing his chair forward, “I scorn when I come before a town, to allow the enemy long time to consider on the articles of my capitulation, for while we are trifling away the time in
“fri-

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“frivolous debates they are relieved or I am driven from before them. I always carry articles about me, ready drawn up, and send them into the town signed by myself, with my resolution of admitting of no alteration. If they subscribe, all’s well; if not, I bombard the town, take it by storm, plunder it, and away for another.”

This son of mars proceeding so smartly, says I, “I hope you do not intend to make too vigorous an attack on the town.” “No fair lady,” answered he, “I see you are prudent enough to hang out a white flag.” Having for some time talked in this manner my hero took his leave, and left me in a much pleasanter humour than I had ever been since the departure of Don Carlos.

Toinette (who was my confidant in this new amour) and I were greatly diverted with the repetition of this courtship; but what pleased me above all was, that I talked of my lover with as much indifference as of a meer stranger.

Don Carlos having now been absent two long years, and my health being pretty well restored, though the captain had served me for amusement, yet my concern for Don Carlos daily encreased, even to such a degree, that unable to bear the pangs of my own breast, and despairing of ever recovering him, I determined to revenge the injury I had done him by becoming a voluntary exile myself.

Having maturely weighed all the consequences of this step in my own mind, I disclosed my intentions to
Toinette,

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Toinette, who begged she might accompany me. This however I absolutely refused, and told her at the same time, that I would leave her in possession of all that I was worth, taking with me only a little money and a few jewels.

I ordered a plain black dress to be made, with a veil of the same, and having taken leave of Toinette set out for I knew not whither in the dusk of the evening, and by the next morning had rambled a long way from the city.

My stages were from cottage to cottage, in which I chose preferably to lodge and to live on the coarsest provisions; and after four days travel I found myself about thirty miles from the city.

I com-

I considered at length that my conduct would not contribute much towards finding Don Carlos, since he could not have been all this time in Flanders; this made me conclude that he was certainly entered into the service of the Emperor of Germany, and I therefore determined to make that the subject of my future enquiries.

These thoughts had engrossed my whole time, so that I perceived I had unthinkingly drawn myself almost into the dark, without considering where I was to lodge that night, however I went on, hoping I should at least meet with some hovel to screen me from the inclemency of the weather.

About a quarter of a mile farther I observed a large building, which I at first took for a castle, but which
on

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on my nearer approach proved to be a nunnery. I took up my stand at the gate, having as I thought seen a person like a traveller let in there. I had not stood long, it being near dark, before a person came to shut the wicket : I then desired the favor of a nights lodging. She told me she would inform the superior, and then return with an answer, which she soon after did, and I was shewn into a room where were five other women who had been admitted on the same account. We were served in a very cleanly manner with bread and wine, and we slept on broad benches raised couch-high on the sides of the room.

After supper we began to grow familiar, and enquired into each other's design in travelling. Two of them were only going to the next town, and were benighted. Another had

had been to accompany her son, who was going a voyage, on ship board, and she was returning home. The fourth a pretty modest young woman, said that her brother, who had been servant to a gentleman on his travels, had been wounded in the wars and was returned to Lisle, where he lay dangerously ill, and she was going to take care of him. I knew not what account I should give of myself, but my turn being come, I told them I was going on a pilgrimage in order to perform a vow I had made at Bruffells, to walk to Lisle and back again on foot, and begging, and asked the woman who was going thither, if she knew the way, and how far it was. She answered she knew neither, but should be very glad of my company.

The next morning we dispersed, and the young woman and I, being
told

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told the proper road, set out together, and in three days arrived at the city of Lisle. But before we parted she insisted on me going with her to see her brother. We found him very ill, and death speedily approaching, as the surgeons who attended him told us, though he was still able to sit up, and talk pretty chearfully. His sister enquired very affectionately into the circumstances of his illness; he told us that his master being an officer, and being in an engagement against the turks near Tameswaer, was surrounded by an ambush, wherein his corps were all cut to pieces, and that himself and his master were both left dead, and would have been stripped but for a party of Spaniards, who marching with all expedition to their assistance, so terrified the Turks that they fled and left them there. He told us he was cut down

the arm, which had taken most of the flesh off, though that was perfectly well again, but that receiving a shot in the body, though it seemed to go on and heal very well, yet it of late discharged so much inwardly that it had reduced him to a shadow, and that finding himself grow weaker daily, he had desired to see his sister before he died, that he might give her what little matter of substance he had. He said his master was recovered of all his wounds, and finding him desirous of dying at Lisle, had been so good as to send him thither, it being the place of his sister's residence.

During this story I was sitting near the poor man in a darkened room; but his back being towards the light, and I having, as I then thought, no interest in his narration, I took but little notice of him, 'till his sister going

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going out on some occasion, he begged of me to reach him something that lay near the window, and turning about his face, I presently recollected to have seen it before, but could not think where. This put my invention on the rack to find out who, and what he was, for fear he should discover me, and that I might the better guess if there was any likelihood of that I withdrew into the shade, and asked him several questions about his travels and his master.

Having given me some account of the wars, he told me that he had served the best master in the world, and who had acquired all the honors during that campaign he could wish for, but that valuing his life at so low a rate, he would scarce ever see his own country again. Nay, says he, I have often been so impertinent

ment as to tell him, I wondered a man so prudent and cautious in every other respect, should so easily reconcile himself to that unconcern for death, which he shewed whenever he engaged the enemy. He gave little attention for a long time to what I said, but one day after a bold encounter and narrow escape, when I had told him that if he valued the common cause for which we fought, he would be more solicitous for his own safety. He answered it was his duty to venture his life, and that though he would not idly throw it away, yet he set very little value on it, and either to gain his master victory or himself glory, he cared not how soon he parted with it, for he had no farther hope of comfort, and death was in his opinion, preferable to it. Then turning from me with a sigh, "Oh ! Beauville, Beauville,"

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“ville!” said he, “why was I so
“odious to you?”

At hearing my own name mentioned, and the application of it, I was struck to the heart, that I could with difficulty support myself on my seat, and my fellow traveller coming in, I made an excuse for retiring; when walking in a field at the back of the house, my whole soul melted within me, and I wept incessantly. But my anguish of heart did not cease with my tears. I was so confused in my mind, and my thoughts so tortured that I debated for some time, whether I should return, or abruptly leave my companions, for I now recollected the sick man to be Don Carlos's late servant.

It was some hours before I could recompose myself sufficiently to be seen, and not 'till I had laboured
with

with several heartfelt pangs: I resolved to enquire where Don Carlos was, and by what means I might most probably find him.

At last I entered the room again, and seeming solicitous how I should be lodged that night, my fellow traveller would herself go and find me an accommodation. In her absence I took an opportunity of informing myself in what post his master was, and in what country, which was the way to it, and what the passage would cost by land and sea, and at last venturing to ask his name: his answer, that it was Don Carlos, caused at once such a recess of my faculties that I dropped from my seat without life or motion. And notwithstanding all the assistance that could be afforded me, had not the least sense of my own condition, till the next morning, when I awakened

ed as usual, to my thinking, only from dreaming of Don Carlos; but I had not been long sensible that I was awake before my fellow traveller, taking my hand in her's, enquiring into the state of my health. I now found it was too late to dissemble, for I plainly perceived that Don Carlos's servant had discovered who I was, and informed her; so without hesitation, I answered Maria (for that was her name) that I was very well; but found the left side of my head somewhat sore, and also the bend of my right arm. She told me it was a great mercy I had received no greater injury, for she never expected to hear me speak more. I told her she very much surprized me, "for though," says I, looking about me, "I very well recollect my coming into this room last night, I do not remember any thing in particular that befel me."

“me.” She told me, that finding me quite motionless, and to her thinking breathless too, she sent for a surgeon to bleed me, but all he could get from me did not amount to fifty drops; he shook his head, saying I was dead: but at length holding my arm still in his hand, and chaffing it, the blood on a sudden spouted from the wound, then retreated again and continued thus ebbing and flowing for about half an hour, ’till he thought I had bled enough, and that I was then put to bed. I answered, that I was entirely ignorant of all that had happened; but finding my arm bound up, and seeming astonished at it: “come come, madam,” said she, “do not disguise the truth: I now understand the motive of your pilgrimage, and I do assure you, both my brother and I will do all in our power to assist you.”

This

This discourse struck me like a thunderbold, and as denying a fact so plain, would only have made room for farther explanations, perceiving her a good sober woman, and seemingly touched with my circumstances, I told her much more than she before knew, and by making her my confidant secured her assistance, which was of the utmost consequence to me.

When I arose, I found myself so weak as to be scarce able to walk across the room, and I was very happy in so good a nurse as Maria, who was exceeding tender of me. Being now fully known, my impatience to know more about Don Carlos was so great, that as soon as I was able I went to the apartment of his servant, where I found the poor man sadly troubled because he could not get up, and making many
apologies

apologies for sitting in my presence. I soon eased him of his pain by placing myself down by him. The first thing I asked him was, how he knew me so well in my disguise. He answered, that at the first glance he thought he had seen me somewhere ; but observing that I was so particular in my enquiries about his master, and seeing me drop from my seat at the mention of his name (my face being quite bare, 'till his sister carried me to bed) he perfectly conceived who I was, and imagined from my concern for his master, the reason of my appearance in this disguise.

“ Oh madam,” says Sancho, “ that
“ I was but well enough to carry
“ to Don Carlos the joyful news of
“ your esteem for him, how would
“ he caress me ? I am sure, if he
“ could but know you entertained
“ the

“ the least favourable sentiments to-
“ wards him, he would fly to meet
“ you, for surely madam, if ever
“ man wore an honest heart, cer-
“ tainly my master does.”

I could have listened for a whole day together to hear Don Carlos's praises, though each word in his favor struck a dagger into my soul, and made me the more sensibly feel for my past folly.

I told Sancho I had neither rested day nor night since his master's departure, and was at last resolved, as I had broke his peace, I would enjoy as little myself, and for every pang he suffered, I would if possible endure two.

I asked him the best way of travelling to his master, for I was resolved to find him. Poor Sancho used

used many arguments to dissuade me from such an undertaking, but finding me already determined, he advised me by all means to go by the sea as far as Barcelona, where I should certainly hear of him. He represented to me the speediness and ease of the passage, together with the difficulties and dangers attending a journey by land over the Pyrennus, and through so many different states, as I must necessarily pass to get to him. He told me, if I could meet with a ship bound to the Mediteranean, I should soon reach the desired port.

This information added to my impatience to begin the voyage ; but my fellow traveller on, being acquainted with my resolution, used all the rhetorick she was mistress of to divert me from it, as my years, sex, and an infinite number of dangers

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gers I thereby lay exposed to, with the little prospect I could have of attaining the end of my desires; besides the confusion I must suffer in discovering myself to him, and my thoughts relative to him.

The day after I had taken this resolution Sancho died, but not before I had got from him all the intelligence possible concerning his master. His death, and providing requisites for his funeral, took up more time than I would willingly have spared till the arrival of the day appointed for my departure. I sent my things away, and having presented Sancho's sister with a small diamond ring, I conjured her never to mention a word of what she knew concerning my affairs, assuring her that if ever I arrived safe at Barcelona, she should be well rewarded for her secrecy: this done I took my leave

H and

and set out for Dunkirk, where a ship lay bound for Barcelona.

Being arrived at the sea port, I hastened on board the vessel, and the same day the wind proving fair, we weighed anchor and sailed. I had a small cabin on board the ship just capable of receiving my bed, and a chest by the side of it. I laid in but a small stock of provisions because I was to mess with the captain. We had four other passengers on board who also dined with him; two of them young gentlemen seeking preferment, and for that purpose going to the emperor's service, and from whose company I had then great expectations. The third an elderly gentleman of Venice, and a great traveller, who came into the port with the ship; and the fourth a merchant, whom I afterwards understood was partner in the vessel.

The

The captain who was a bo'd fellow and withal a jolly soul, who dearly loved his bottle and joke, was as well suited with all his passengers, except myself, as he could desire.

The wind continuing fair we made great way, and to my no small joy, I soon heard we were entering the mediterranean; I now began to long to be on shore, and released from my shipmates. Being however to my no small misfortune, becalmed off Cape Spartel, we rather lost than made any way for two or three days. On the third day in the morning our men espied a sail a head of us, coming up with what wind she could gather; as she approached nearer, they thought they saw Genoese colours, but coming still closer, they bore down upon us with Turkish colours, and clapped us on board.

at once, our small vessel being in no condition to oppose them.

It being early in the morning, I was in bed in my cabin, when hearing a violent outcry all at once above, and a trampling over my head as if the deck would have been staved through, I little suspecting the cause started up and began to dress myself, but before I was half ready to go up upon deck, a Turk forcing open my cabin door, pulled almost all my cloaths off my back, and with a pistol in his hand pointing to my chest, made signs to me to give him the key thereof. I very submissively gave it him. I was still under strong apprehensions of danger from the disturbance over my head, so that I little regarded what was befalling myself, though the pistol was then at my breast, for the uproar was inexpressible. After the Turk had taken what he liked out of my chest

chest he began to strip me of my few remaining cloaths, but begging very hard for something to cover me, he gave me an old pair of breeches and a thin jacket, and then drove me up before him.

Having only nine hands on board besides passengers and being pretty near the Turkish coast they did not apprehend much danger from us, so that we were neither so barbarously used or strictly guarded as in such cases is usual; but the Turk having put thirty hands on board our ship, six of us were left with them, and the rest taken on board their ship and employed in such business as they allotted us, and in about five days we were landed. We were chained two and two, and in a few days were sent up the country with several others to be sold.

In the then state of my affairs
my sorrows grew more weighty
H 3 upon

upon me. Nevertheless, though my condition then appeared so desperate, I cannot say I once repented my having undertaken the voyage, or condemned my pursuit of Don Carlos, nor did I ever wish myself at home again.

I had lost my money, jewels and cloaths, together with all that I had, except the breeches and jacket, and what would next befall me I could not tell. After travelling about forty miles we were drove into an old stable to lie down, whilst our guide and guard refreshed themselves. There happened at the same time to be the servant of a gentleman, a traveller dead in the house, and though he had two others yet he wanted one to supply the place of the deceased. This gentleman seeing so many of us drove into the yard together soon after applied to our
master

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master (a person who had bought us all immediately on our arrival, and was carrying us up higher into the country to make his market of us) in order to purchase one of us. We were then ordered all of us into the yard, and passed singly before him. He came up to me bidding me to walk across the yard, then looking into my hand and raising up my head, he turned and walked off with my master to a distance. After some discourse I saw him put some money into his hand, then coming to me again and taking me from the rest, he beckoned me to follow him into the house.

This struck the deepest to my heart of all my other misfortunes, but I endeavoured to submit to my fate with as much resignation as I could.

My new master was not above twenty years old, but of a most serious deportment, and of a sweet countenance and temper, and as such was esteemed by his servants, and every body he engaged with. He ordered one of his servants to shew me my business, and which was my horse (a certain number of his slaves being appointed to take care of his stables) and how he would have him managed. I made a point of obeying each direction to a tittle. He then ordered his deceased servant's cloaths to be delivered to me, and ordered me to put them on, which I did. I apprehended as indeed it proved, that my greatest difficulty would be to ride with my master, for I had never rode a single horse in my life, and very much dreaded it. However I was obliged to mount, and follow him the next day.

On:

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On our journey we called at several places staying more or less at each, before we reached Constantinople, the place where my master lived, at a house of his father's, who was a bashaw of two tails, and had then the command of the grand seignior's army. It was my chief task to attain to turkish language, and for that purpose I contracted a particular acquaintance with a young Turk in my master's retinue, one of the genteelest men in all Constantinople ; he too taking a fancy to me was very proud of instructing me in it, so that conversing with him constantly for near three months, I could not only fluently speak it, but also in the most polite stile, so that my master would not be persuaded but that I had either lived in Turkey before, or had very much conversed in the Turkish language.

- I at length grew so far in my master's favor, that shortly after I was not only entrusted with his running cash but even his secret amours, and few things were transacted in his family but what passed either through my hands, or under my instruction.

About the middle of the second summer I had been with him, he ordered me to make preparations for a journey he intended to his father, who was then with the army. I obeyed, and every thing being ready we set out, and soon reached the place where the army was encamped. It lay about four miles from the city the emperor was then besieging; endeavouring to interrupt the siege by skirmishes, and waiting an opportunity to raise it if possible, or at least retard it till the approach of winter.

We

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We had been about a fortnight in the camp when the old bashaw having ordered a brigade round a large wood in the flank of the left wing of the Germans, to surprize them ; my master begged leave to be of the party, which desire his father granting, I was of course ordered to attend him. Having appeared so long as a man, I was almost persuaded that I really was so, and therefore followed him with much less concern than I could have done two years before, and than, I am certain, several men did who were ordered to that service. We gained the post behind the wood before we were perceived, but were discovered e'er we had well passed it by a party sent on purpose to prevent our design, so that we were so hemmed in, that meeting with too warm a reception from those who were ordered to attack, and turning to repass the wood

we

we found our retreat entirely cut off; so that we were unavoidably obliged either to force our way through the enemy, or die *fabre* in hand.

The closeness of the trees made it even difficult in some places to carry on a skirmish, and the Germans becoming more and more numerous by fresh reinforcements hourly sent to them, and not caring to venture a rencounter in the wood, determined to compel us to surrender prisoners of war, or to starve us there.

In this situation we continued till the next day, when in a council of the officers it was determined to force a passage through the enemy at all events.

My master though unexperienced in the art of war, being of an intrepid

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trepid cool resolution, would in this enterprize signalize himself by leading on a body of our men, for it had been resolved that we should march out in six bodies, of about one thousand men each at different places, that the enemy who was greatly superior to us in number, might be obliged to divide also; and it was further resolved, that which ever party broke through should return and succour their friends, and not quit the field till all were, (if possible) brought off.

It was my masters lot to head one of the outward parties next the skirt of the wood, when the signal being given we all marched out and were vigorously attacked by the enemy. I kept close by my master's side in the front rank, and saw the men fall in great numbers on each side of me, we still marching on, our orders

orders being not to fire, 'till we came up almost close to our adversaries, and then making one smart fire, to fall on with our sabres.

We had just fired and done great execution, and were engaged with our swords, when in the confusion I missed my master and apprehended he was slain, but had not time to look for him. We began to force the enemy, and in several places had broke through them, when observing a body of horse moving up to their relief, our spirits began to flag.

I had broke through with the rest, and seeing the horse upon the spur to surround us, I made up to them hoping to free myself from slavery by surrendering to them, but being advanced near enough to distinguish their faces, judge what was my surprise, when I perceived Don Carlos
their

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their head. This threw me into the utmost perplexity, my courage and manly resolution being now sunk into that of a meer woman. I was now very near him, when he (judging by my habit I was a Turk, and that I came on an ill design) levelled his pistol at me, and was just going to fire. The terror of this sight involuntarily forced me to cry out, "Beauville." Immediately his right hand dropping to his knee the pistol discharged itself against the ground, and his rein falling from his left on his horse's neck, I perceived by the change of his countenance the emotions of his soul; no time however being to be lost, I ran up to him and begged him to lend me a horse that I might attend him, and not lose that critical minute which might never be regained.

I per-

I perceived his surprize would unman him if we conferred any longer; so mounting one of his servant's horses I rode by his side, the whole corps looking on me as a deserter or a spy, come to bring him intelligence. We kept on a round trot, and soon came up with the flying Turks, when espying my master singly pursued by three Germans, and ready to surrender, I entreated Don Carlos to dispatch two or three of his horse with me to save the life of that Turk.

We came up to his assistance just as they were falling on him, tired with his flight and turning upon his opponents. I called out to them to desist, I told him I was heartily glad of this opportunity of protecting him, and desired him to come with us, for no harm should befall him, my intent being only to detain him
till

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'till the battle was over, and he out of farther danger.

The coming up of Don Carlos had quite changed the face of affairs, and gave a check to the flying Turks who were now rallying to return to the assistance of the rest; for falling in between them and pushing them upon the next party, they were all cut off to a man and almost all the other divisions shared the same fate.

On the army's retiring to the camp, I desired the three troopers who were with me to conduct myself and my master (Achmet) to Don Carlos's quarters as prisoners of war, for being both in Turkish habits I did not know what might be reported on seeing us in any other manner than as prisoners of war in his tent. This done I told Achmet that
Don

Don Carlos having been my former master before I knew him, and having now recovered me by force of arms, I was bound to render him my future service; "but sir," said I to Don Carlos, "I must entreat you
"to restore this my last master to
"his father in return for his kind
"and generous treatment of me,
"and to give him safe conduct to
"the grand seignior's army."

Don Carlos readily complied with my desires, and three troopers being appointed as his safeguard, and he arrived at the army, leaving me and Don Carlos together.

Don Carlos as soon as we were alone in his tent, thus addressed me;
"Fair creature, whatever I am to
"to think of you I beseech you to
"cast aside the veil that shades my
"faculties, and appear to me what
you

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“ you really are, for I am not as
“ yet assured that my senses are not
“ cheated by some strong delusion.
“ O! that it may prove a reality!
“ if you are my Beauville, dear
“ name! unriddle this mystery to
“ me; but if some phantom only
“ in her form, sooth me rather un-
“ der a continued deception, than
“ by forcing me to hear ungrateful
“ truth, leave me to dark and gloo-
“ my despair.”

I had already heard enough to
confirm me in the opinion of Don
Carlos's constancy, my heart melt-
ing within me I fell at his feet, and
as soon as I could speak I cryed out.
“ you really see before you, dear
“ Carlos, that base, that ungrateful
“ creature, Beauville. And can you
“ still retain a spark of tenderness
“ for me, after all the slights you
“ have suffered for me? have they
“ not

“ not effaced each line of your former passion for me? if so, abandon me: I have learned to bear disgrace and infamy since I have been absent from you.”

“ Absent from me?” says Don Carlos, (raising me up and clasping me in his arms) “ lovely maid, idol of my soul, thou hast never been absent from my imagination: heaven has at length heard my prayers, and we will never part. Unriddle to me what kind fate has led Beauville hither, and in this garb, clad like an enemy, a foe to christians, though a friend to me.”

I readily gratified his curiosity, and during the narration I saw tears trickling down his cheeks, and he often interrupted me by deep sighs. When I had finished, he begged I would:

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would prove my affection for him by indulging him with my hand: this I instantly promised, and we accordingly resolved on the measures to be pursued in order to complete our happiness as soon as possible. The war being concluded and the army dismissed we set out for Berlin, where the nuptial ceremony was performed, to the unspeakable satisfaction of both parties. This done, we left that city in order to go to Lisle, where I soon met with Maria, whom I handsomely rewarded for her secrecy and services. We staid here several days, and afterwards proceeded to Brussels.

Here I found Toinette, who gave me an exact and faithful account of my affairs during my absence. I settled a thousand ducats a year on her, as a recompence for her services, and having settled the affairs of my estate

estate at Brussels I left that city, and took the road for Barcelona. I was received with open arms by all my husbands relations and friends, who congratulated us both on our happy choice of each other. I now experienced all the happiness the human mind is capable of, and being blessed with a numerous and beautiful offspring, tasted all the joys of a most perfect felicity.

Before I close this history, I shall just give the reader a short account of two persons with whom I became acquainted soon after my arrival at Barcelona, as their history contains some remarkable incidents, it cannot but be agreeable to the reader. The story of the first is as follows :

A lady of noble family in Scotland, who in the year 1715 was compelled to leave her native country by reason

son of her husband's attachment to the Pretender's party, retired to St. Germain's in France, where her husband soon after died. The old chevalier behaved very kindly to her, but being incapable of properly supporting all those unhappy fugitives, whose blind zeal had rendered them outcasts of their maternal isle, she was in the greatest distress, having three sons to educate and maintain a dreadful perspective opened to her view, and she was meditating upon her unhappy fate, when a widow lady who had no children of her own, residing near the place, and possessing an ample fortune, remitted her a considerable sum of money, and gave her to understand, that if she would part with the youngest of her sons, who was not above two years old, she would take upon herself his education. This lady had seen the child, who was remarkably hand-

handsome and engaging, and she had often wished that she had been blessed with such an amiable pledge of her former love.

The mother was easily persuaded to let her have the child, as she was convinced from her general behaviour, that she could do much better by him than herself was able. The boy was accordingly put into her hands, and it was agreed with the mother that this lady should adopt him for her own son. The lady's tenderness and affection daily increased for the child, and she continued bringing him up with this intent.

In the mean while a relation of the Scottish lady's died in England, and having bequeathed her a considerable legacy, it was necessary that she should make her personal appearance to receive it. She accordingly

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ingly set out for Great Britain, with her two eldest sons, leaving her youngest in the hands of this affectionate lady, with the prospect of an ample fortune.

The first impressions he had received in his infancy were not very difficult to remove. He soon forgot that he was born in Scotland; and the assiduity of his mother by adoption, in placing him early in a college at Paris, entirely eradicated the remembrance of his origin. He there went through his studies in the name he was entered, which was that of his benefactress, and no expence was spared for maintenance. He was taught all the proper exercises suitable to his age, with all the distinction of a gentleman heir to a considerable fortune, and without his having the least mistrust of the change that had happened in his destiny. He imagined his benefactress

I factress

factress to be his mother, and she had habituated herself to look on him as her son: and finding him answer her most sanguine expectations, by the methods that had been taken in his education, she was resolved that he should always remain in this agreeable error.

He was already, by her intercession, made a musqueteer, when one of his brothers came to Paris, who failed not to perform that which he thought his duty, by paying his earliest respects to this lady, who had done so many generous and good offices to the family. At this interview he learned from her, what indeed could not be concealed, that his brother was living, and that he was every way deserving of the affection which she had conceived for him; but at the same time she dissembled her capricious turn of mind, by adding, that she had hitherto

thereto taken care to conceal from him his real family, her design being to keep him, during her life, in that delusion: that, to counter-balance this deception, she had not only resolved to behave in every respect as a mother to him, but also bequeath him the succession of all her fortune: that he already bore her name and arms; that he believed himself destined by nature to be her heir, and that the force of custom had habituated him to pay her every filial respect and attention; that the illusion was so agreeable to her, if ever it should be destroyed, she should consider it as the greatest misfortune that could happen to her: that she would not even answer for the continuance of her former dispositions, if, by undeceiving her dear son, he should slacken his duty and respect towards her, by perhaps paying them to another; and that therefore it was

of the utmost consequence to both of them, that he should remain in the state of ignorance in which he had been educated; and therefore she intreated, either through favour or justice, to be indulged so far, at least till her death; and concluded by telling him, his brother's future fate and fortune were in his hands.

This was too favourite a topic, for her not soon after to resume it. “Truth and honour,” said she, “will not allow me to deny to you, that I could wish all the world were equally ignorant as himself with respect to his birth; but you will be his destruction, if, by communicating to him what I have just been saying to you, I am robbed of any part of that pleasure which I take in concealing it from him. Consider well your conduct, for I have such delicate notions on this head,

“ as

“ as will never suffer me to put up
“ with appearances, or be imposed
“ on by deception.”

However extravagant these notions appeared to the Scotch gentleman, he thought himself obliged to reply, that she required nothing but what she had a right to expect; and having a strong desire to see his brother, he protested, that every thing that she had pleased to make him confident of, should ever remain a profound secret, if she thought proper. After this promise, she did not hesitate to inform him, that his brother was a musqueteer, and that he might see him at Paris. If indeed the regard he had for his brother did not weigh with him not to destroy the musqueteer's fortune, his own personal interest would have induced him to have kept the secret. He set out with a full resolution of being silent, no way mistrusting

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trusting his own discretion; and ruminating, anticipated the pleasure he should have in playing so uncommon a character as he was going to exhibit. His impatience did not let him long postpone his desired satisfaction. Almost as soon as he arrived at Paris, he obtained it; and accident was so much his friend, that instead of having only the pleasure of seeing his brother, as he supposed, he supped with him the very first night, being introduced by an Irish officer who had an intimacy at the *hotel* of the musqueteers.

If he was at first excited by nothing but curiosity, to keep his eyes constantly fixed upon the musqueteer; he was soon sensible that the force of nature was still stronger, which recalled his attention against his will. During the whole night, he could not withdraw his eyes one instant from a face whose every
feature

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feature awakened in his heart some tender sentiment. His brother, on his side, was secretly agitated by the same power; but this he at first imputed to that embarrassment which the constant attention of a stranger must naturally create: but finding it increase with a kind of prejudice in favour of this very stranger, he could not account for it; and he at length concluded it to be one of those sympathetic *penchants* which sometimes influence the heart, and which dispose us to esteem those we are unacquainted with.

They retired with a strong inclination of meeting again. The musqueteer was the more solicitous for it, as he knew of no measures that were to be kept; and therefore, the next day, he desired the Irish officer who had introduced this agreeable companion, to make them better

I 4 acquainted.

acquainted. Thus, then, they kept each other's company, whilst their mutual inclination daily increased, and they at length became almost inseparable. In a word, they were for some months the Castor and Pollux of Paris, and, as a constellation, attracted the attention of all inquisitive beholders. The ill-natured world began to reason with respect to a friendship that so much resembled a passion. At a time when such familiarities and affection were not always founded in innocence, some slanderous tongues chose to brand their connection with an unnatural stigma. Such at least was the pretext of the elder brother, for having revealed the secret. Moreover, he had no reason to suspect that his indiscretion would have been so fatal to the musqueteer; and those who upbraided him with weakness, did not however pronounce

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nounce him criminal for yielding to the impulse of his natural feelings.

The musqueteer was one day expressing his surprize at the strong inclination he had of constantly being with his unknown brother, and at his great propensity for loving him. It was now that the elder brother could no longer withhold the secret from him, or refrain from embracing him with tenderness, at the same time substituting the word Brother for Friend. He, nevertheless, immediately subjoined all the reasons which should induce both of them to act with caution in this respect, in imparting to him the discourse which had passed between him and the musqueteer's supposed mother; and concluded with intimating his fears that she might behave to her adopted son in the manner she had threatened, if she perceived the least relaxation on his side

with respect to tenderness and affection.

Whatever emotions the musqueteer felt in his breast at this discovery, he promised, however, to keep within such bounds as were prescribed him; and they then settled in what manner they should behave. To pay respect and regard to an amiable and generous lady, could not appear a very difficult task, which they agreed by oath never to swerve from. Indeed the testimonies which she expected were such as could no way embarrass any young gentleman well brought up, as his own disposition, without compulsion, would have induced him to offer them.

But the danger lay on another side. The idea of a mother whom he had never seen, and who incessantly recurred to his mind under every attracting form, greatly disturbed

turbed his tranquillity. The desire of seeing her became an insupportable torment to him. He opened his mind to his brother on this head, who painted to him, in lively colours, his apprehensions, exhorting him to gain more empire over his sentiments; but this counsel was not attended to: even the frustration of all his hopes did not appear to him an evil that should divert his design; but this he thought could never be the case, as he could not imagine that she, who, as he thought, was actuated solely by generosity in all that she had done for him, could ever be offended to see him give way to those sentiments, which were as just as they were natural, especially when he should solemnly declare to her, they should no way affect those which she had a right to expect from him. His brother exerted all his endeavours to make him lay aside this thought,

but in vain. He set out with the design of opening his heart to his benefactress, and to intreat her to allow him to make a voyage to England.

He was received by her with the usual marks of affection. She had no suspicion of any thing that had passed, and her regard for this dear son was now at its summit. He had, nevertheless, scarce begun to explain himself, ere she discovered what he was going upon. Her indignation was fired to that degree, that it eclipsed all her former sentiments. "They have ruined you," said she, interrupting him; "I from this moment cease to be your mother, since you are no longer ignorant whose son you are. Go back to those who have done you this kind office, and never appear again in my sight." So great was her jealousy, that,
upon

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upon saying these last words, she immediately retired to her closet, where she locked herself in all alone, without listening a moment to the prayers and intreaties of the youth. He at length concluded that his reasoning had deceived him; but the evil which he began to dread affecting him far less than what he thought the duty he owed to nature, he resolved rather to renounce his claims to fortune, than to give up those obligations which he thought incumbent on a youth of family, who should consider nothing so dear as those who gave him breath. This resolution did not, however, prevent the renewal of his endeavours to soften a heart, whose affection he considered as placed in the first rank after that he bore his real mother. He was beloved by the servants, who had been accustomed to treat him like their master; so that, by their assistance, he gained admittance

tance into the lady's apartment, notwithstanding the rigorous injunctions she had laid upon her attendants to the contrary. At the sight of him, she was upon the point of flying from the room he entered, but he threw himself at her feet, and interrupted her passage.

This was a most pathetic scene. Jealousy, affection, and rage, by turns affected her. However, it at length ended in a kind of composition on both sides. The lady promised to continue her friendship towards him, and to forget the offence he had given her, on condition that he would engage not to go to England, and never to call the Scotch lady (whom she considered as her rival) mother in her presence. On his part, the musqueteer gave his word, but in the most equivocal terms, to obey in every thing the lady, whom he should love all his life-

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life-time as his mother, and never to undertake any thing that might give her the least uneasiness. He placed his hope in escaping by this mental reservation, and to find some favourable opportunity of going secretly to England.

Peace being restored by this happy treaty, some months elapsed while he was concerting his measures to make a secret voyage to England, and he put them in execution at the time the court was at Fontainebleau, when he obtained leave of absence for three weeks, without any one of his friends having the least suspicion of his departure. In fine, fate, that had decreed he should not inherit this lady's fortune, resolved that his benefactress should be taken ill of a violent fever during his absence; and thinking, in her lucid intervals, that her end approached, she most ardently wished to see him.

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He was accordingly wrote to, but the letters never reached him. Equally fruitless was the search made after him, till it was at length discovered by some of the officers of the corps, that he was gone over to England.

This news, which was too inadvertently related to his benefactress, no sooner reached her, than it threw her into the most violent agonies, in which she expired, revoking her former will in her adopted son's favour, considering him as the most ungrateful of human beings, and leaving her whole fortune to a convent.

The mind of the unfortunate young gentleman was greatly agitated at this unexpected stroke. Every thing now seemed to ruffle him, though the real source of his uneasiness was in his own breast, there

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there engendered by his adopted mother's cruelty and revenge. As he could not brook an affront, he was always cautious of giving one: but his disposition was now inclined to construe the slightest insinuation into insult; and being in company where his own story was told by another officer, who did not know him, it was considered by him as so great an outrage upon decency, that he immediately called the officer out; when drawing, his antagonist fell in the conflict. It was necessary for the musqueteer to make a precipitate escape, and he flew to Barcelona, where he soon found himself destitute of money or protection.

This, gentle reader, is the story of the adopted son, if I may be allowed to call him so, whose expectations, from the summit of fortune, were now reduced to the mean necessity of imploring the assistance of
of

of those, who, because they are richer, fancy themselves greater than every one else.

Shocked at the miserable situation of this worthy man, I resolved to extricate him from his present distressful circumstances; and therefore prevailed on my husband, Don Carlos, to do something for him. His generosity surpassed my expectation, for he settled a handsome income on him during life, which enabled him to live comfortably during the rest of his days.

I come next to speak of a lady, with whose memoirs I intend to close this work; which I should not have protracted to so great a length, but that I was unwilling to deprive my readers of all the satisfaction I could afford them.

There

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There was another person with whom I made acquaintance at Barcelona, with whose story it would be unpardonable in me not to acquaint the reader. It is as follows:

Upon the confines of the west riding of Yorkshire, dwelt the lovely, accomplished Louisa. Her father inherited a landed estate of full two thousand pounds a year. He had learning without pedantry, and gentility without affectation. He was representative in parliament for the county of ———. He was unsusceptible of all those vices that contaminate the courtier, and too often the statesman: his conduct was actuated by the most rigid virtue, by the most upright probity. After this, it were almost needless to say, that he was a patriot in the utmost latitude of the word; or, that he was an admirer of the fine arts, or a promoter of those manu-
factures

factures which advance the general weal. Such was the father of Louisa, and such his pursuits, when she arrived at that age which makes beauty captivate, and mankind its slaves. A group of admirers incessantly pursued her, to offer up their hearts as the just tributes of her charms. She listened with that affability which is the characteristic of that happy, that golden mien, equally distant from prudery and coquetry. Her heart was, however, not inaccessible to the shafts of love. Lord E—— was possessed of that insinuating manner, of that easy address; in a word, of that *je ne sçai quoi*, to which the whole sex, by turns, succumb.

It were needless to enter into all the details of courtship which now succeeded; suffice it to say, his lordship had gained Louisa's heart, and her father's approbation.

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Connubial felicity now took place. Lady E—— was at once the envy and admiration of her whole sex, his lordship's personal and mental accomplishments being such as conferred dignity and honour on nobility: nor was he thought less happy by the men in the possession of that amiable woman. For three successive years their house was considered, and not without reason, as the temple of sublunary bliss. The fruits of this happy union were two most lovely girls, who concentrated the variegated graces of their beauteous parents.

Such early pledges of their mutual passion might, it should have been thought, have more strongly cemented, if possible, those pleasing chains, which neither time, or transient fortune, seemed capable of unrivetting. But alas! how unstable is every mundane felicity! What seemed

seemed out of the power of fate, was operated by a cause, that had but a negative existence--inattention. Too secure in the possession of the man she loved, she no longer practised those useful, those eligible arts, which should be ever exerted to retain dominion after conquest. Careless of her person, negligent of her dress, she no longer appeared that irresistible charmer the world unanimously pronounced her.

Lord E——, though endowed with many good, nay, great accomplishments, was still a man, and therefore not without his frailties. The fair sex had always been the constant object of his admiration; he thought, he lived, he breathed but in them—that is, the most beautiful, the most amiable part of them. No longer finding that gratification at home, which he had been wont to esteem the highest blessing,

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bleffing, he fought at large for some object more suited to his disposition: but as yet without any premeditated plan, without any certain goal; when lo! the fair Hecatiffa, too well instructed in each delusive art, mustered every charm, real or artificial, to tyrannize over the fond, the doating lord E——. She played the despot with his truant heart, and chastised his bastard passion. Unaccustomed to the slavery of love, he broke his gally chain. The gentle, lenient Eleonora, still more deeply skilled in all the wiles of Cupid's inmost school, viewed his lordship as a blind admirer, and her captive. Long she retained him as the self-imagined only happy man, whilst his latent rivals were almost without number.

Whilst she was thus ruminating, her worthy father entered: he saw the tears trickle down her cheek, the

the bosom heave, but he knew not the subject of her sorrow. Great was his anguish when she revealed the cause of her misery, for till then she had kept it to every one a secret. However, the good old gentleman, whilst he listened as a father, also listened as a father and as a comforter. He heard her tale with pity, he gave advice with prudence. "My daughter," said he, "thou hast a magnanimous soul, thou hast many virtues, thou hast still beauty: learn then to make them appear equally amiable in thine husband's eyes now, as thou didst on thy nuptial day. Learn what female has subdued a heart so justly, so legally thine. Study well those endearments which have dazzled him; imitate—surpass them."

Lady E—— listened with that filial attention which so much judgment,

ment, so much wisdom commanded. From that moment her person became once more her study, dress once more her avocation, and her husband once more her lover.

Thus they lived happy in each other's company for several years, till at length lord E—— was unfortunately drawn into a duel with the duke of —— . The occasion of their quarrel was as follows: The duke of —— fell passionately in love with a young lady (for as such she appeared to be) at a masquerade. The earl of —— had danced with her, and this was sufficient to excite anger and resentment in a mind like the duke's, replete with impetuosity. His grace considered him in the light of a rival; and being, beyond expression, ambitious of gaining the young lady's affections, he sent him a challenge,

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and in the rencounter unfortunately killed him.

No sooner did the news of the death of the earl of ——— reach the ears of the fair Louisa, than she experienced the most poignant grief. The consolation of friends was no relief to the anguish of mind she felt, and she remained for several days deprived of her senses. At length her husband's funeral being over, she consented to follow the advice of some relations, who advised her to reside for a time in foreign countries, hoping thereby to cure her of that melancholy which had taken such deep root in her heart.

She acquiesced, and, together with her little family, set out for Paris. She passed her time agreeably enough there; but as novelty seemed the best remedy for her disease,

disease, she, by the advice of those who attended her, set out for Portugal, where having spent some months, she embarked at length for Spain, and arrived at Barcelona.

The arrival of any stranger, particularly a native of Great Britain, in Spain, makes a great noise. No wonder then, if every one was prompted to see her. I took an opportunity to see her one day in the duke of Medina Celi's garden; and having learned the place of her abode, I sent her a complimentary card, desiring to be acquainted with her. She, for some time, declined any communication with me; but after several solicitations, she condescended to grant my request, and we at length became bosom friends, and now live compleatly happy in the enjoyment of each other's company.

And

And here, reader, I will close my memoirs with an observation on the various vicissitudes of human life.

I believe every person in the world, were they disposed to communicate to the public the many turns of fortune they have experienced during their life, it would furnish more than sufficient matter to fill a volume. I am certain, that had I descended to all the most minute circumstances of my own time, they would fill many volumes. This conclusion may however be deduced from the foregoing sheets, That a beginning, how prosperous soever, can never ensure us a happy close of our days ; as, on the contrary, how unpropitious soever the influence of the planet which reigns at our birth, we cannot be more or less unfortunate in the end.

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